

INTERSECTIONS

THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS CHRONICLES

Message from Dr. Rai

Last week was a good week. We celebrated a milestone that I have been anxiously anticipating for years. We gathered as a community to celebrate the opening of the Bioscience Education Center on the Germantown Campus. I was thrilled to join Dr. Pollard, Trustee Felton, Provost Latimer,

our students the training, experience, and connections needed to go on to do great things, and the opportunity to benefit from the region's life sciences economy. Congratulations to all!

With the great efforts you are all leading at the College, organizations and fellow colleges and universities



MC colleagues and friends officially open the Bioscience Education Center. Sept. 10, 2014

Dr. Collins Jones, and biotechnology alumna Hsiu Chen to offer our thoughts and sense of pride in the spectacular building and what it will bring to our students. It was a true testament to the good work we do at Montgomery College to see how many of our elected and industry partners came to celebrate with us. I was glad to hear a similar sentiment from many people that day — that the new facility, and its place in the Hercules Pinkney Life Sciences Park, will help give

frequently look to us to visit them and speak about what we are doing here. I had the opportunity this week to represent Dr. Pollard at a White House forum on improving STEM pathways for underrepresented student populations, and earlier this summer I presented at the Bridging Nations seminar on the role of community colleges in skills development and job creation in India. This subject will be a primary focus during India's newly-elected Prime Minister's upcoming visit to America. I hope you will take the opportunity to share your

knowledge with our national and international colleagues.

I am so pleased with the entire division's efforts to implement the new academic structure. As we travel through this first semester, I know how many of you are working to make all the necessary transitions, both large and small. You have new tasks to learn, positions to hire, and some new colleagues to get to know—all of the details that go into reorganizations. I appreciate the patience, cooperation, and leadership that I have seen throughout the division, and I have complete confidence that we have the right team to put in place all of the final details to fully realize our overall vision—an operation that sets us at an optimal level to support our students in achieving their dreams.

We are quickly approaching the 100-day mark, and I will be releasing a report to record everything the College has done to transition to the new structure as recommended by the work groups and the issues that developed during these

critical first days. While our self-assessment will not begin until data and outcomes become available, an initial external evaluation is already underway by a PhD student research assistant from the University of Michigan's Community College Interdisciplinary Research Forum who has been studying our restructuring process. The external review will continue into the fall semester with a final report due in December.

We will all need to play an active role in assessment efforts and planning activities, which will center on performance metrics that were developed specifically to lock our focus strictly on activities that support student success. Take time in your various unit- and department-based meetings to brainstorm ways to enhance our performance in those indicators of success. As always, I am happy to visit your planning meetings to discuss our division priorities with you.

Thank you for your commitment to MC.



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A Clear Division Focus

The performance metrics that I mention in my opening message are included here for your easy viewing. You will see that they illustrate a wide range of activities with the goal of approaching student success from every possible angle. When you think about new initiatives, ask the question “How will this strengthen our ability to improve on our performance in these key areas?” They are:

- ◆ Increased degree completion and transfer rates
- ◆ Reduction of time and cost to completion
- ◆ Increased retention rates
- ◆ Strengthened connections between learning outcomes and transfer institution requirements
- ◆ Increased responsiveness to industry and discipline-specific requests
- ◆ Increased collaboration between credit units and WD&CE
- ◆ Increased alignment with national discipline efforts
- ◆ Increased globalization of curriculum
- ◆ Increased global partnerships
- ◆ Improved general education offerings
- ◆ Enhanced general studies program
- ◆ Improved communication between division and the rest of the College
- ◆ Increased support for co-curricular programs
- ◆ Increased enrollment in honors offerings
- ◆ Increased participation in E-Learning, Innovation, and Teaching Excellence (ELITE) offerings
- ◆ Increased engagement of faculty and staff within disciplines
- ◆ Increased faculty-led initiatives
- ◆ Increased student satisfaction
- ◆ Enhanced coordination of developmental education
- ◆ Increased developmental course completion
- ◆ Creation of major field advising
- ◆ Higher satisfaction with learning centers
- ◆ Increased pathways, articulations, and partnerships with K-12 and four-year institutions
- ◆ Increased number of grants awarded that target areas identified as critical
- ◆ Increased use of OCWs and MOOCs to supplement current course offerings
- ◆ Increased opportunities and participation in internships, externships, REUs, etc.
- ◆ Increased connections and partnerships with regional industry
- ◆ Increased consistency in data and information reporting
- ◆ Enhanced ability to make data-driven decisions pertaining to student learning outcomes assessment
- ◆ Higher course enrollment
- ◆ Fewer canceled courses due to lack of enrollment
- ◆ Improved response times to laws and regulations, etc.
- ◆ Strengthened campus and discipline-based leadership
- ◆ Consistent and timely responses to student issues
- ◆ More professional development opportunities

FY 2015 Dashboards

Every year division leaders choose their top priorities to report on throughout the year to College leadership. I chose these priorities for Academic Affairs largely from our list of performance metrics. They are:



- Field-based advising implementation
- Online catalog implementation and integration
- General studies curriculum review and implementation
- General education design and approval
- Academic structure assessment
- Life Sciences Park partnerships with academic units and industry
- Academic master planning
- Closing the Achievement Gap plan implementation
- Cross-campus equity of resources (learning centers, labs, etc.) review and planning
- Middle States planning
- Center for Part-time faculty
- International studies
- Workforce development

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Meet the Chairs

For perhaps the only time in the College's history, on July 1 newly-selected chairs in every academic department began their terms. Learn more about them below.

Arts



Michael Farrell, Rockville Chair of Art

Joined MC in 2000

MFA in Painting

"I am looking forward to working with colleagues to develop a more integrated Fine Art program across all three campuses."



Lincoln Mudd, Takoma Park/Silver Spring Chair of Visual and Performing Arts

Joined MC in 2002

MFA in Sculpture

"What has always excited me about MC is the personal engagement with students in the classroom and a sense of fulfillment in making a direct impact in their lives. As a new chair with a reduced role in the classroom the challenge of the year ahead will be to maintain that sense of impact in students' lives."



Ed Riggs, Rockville Chair of Media Arts and Technologies

Joined MC in 1971

Master of Science

"I have always been excited about MC because I enjoy the challenges that my ever-changing discipline requires. I love learning and exploring new ideas and technologies. I am also happy to be a part of the governance process and to represent the needs of both faculty and students."



Alvin Trask, Rockville Chair of Performing Arts

Joined MC in 2005

Master of Music

"I love the vibrancy of the students here at MC and I am looking forward to some great performances from our newly merged department."

Business, Economics, Accounting, Computer Applications, Hospitality Management, and Paralegal Studies



Andrea Foster, Germantown and Takoma Park/Silver Spring Chair of Business and Economics

Joined MC in 2011

MS in Computer Resource Management, MBA, Master of International Management

"I love everything about Montgomery College. I think that the College is a phenomenal place to work; it supports the faculty and staff and encourages us to use our initiative in every way primarily to facilitate and ensure student success."



Bill Johnstone, Rockville Chair of Business and Economics

Joined MC in 1974

MBA, Finance

"I am most excited by watching and helping students and faculty grow and succeed."

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English and Reading



Elizabeth Benton, Rockville Chair of English and Reading

Joined MC in 2004

MA in English Education

"We have a dynamic English and Reading department. The teachers are dedicated to the art of composition, the intellectual journey of studying literature, and innovative pedagogy that will meet the needs of our MC student community."



Ellen Olmstead, Takoma Park/Silver Spring Chair of English and Reading

Joined MC in 2006

MEd in English Education, MA in Comparative Literature

"I am excited about the possibilities for collaboration that the One College restructuring facilitates and for cross-pollination that the combined English and Reading department encourages."



Mary Robinson, Germantown Chair of English and Reading

Joined MC in 2007

EdD in Higher Education / Community College Leadership

"I am excited about the interplay of collegewide instructional practices that will strengthen student success!"

Education and Social Sciences



Eric Benjamin, Rockville Chair of Education and Psychology

Joined MC in 1998

PhD in Counseling Psychology

"What excites me the most about the upcoming year is the opportunity to coordinate with members of Montgomery College and the surrounding community to work systematically on strategies to promote positive educational outcomes for our students."



Dede Marshall, Germantown Chair of Education and Social Sciences

Joined MC in 2010

MA in Early Childhood Special Education

"I am looking forward to all I will learn in the upcoming year as well as being in a position to make positive changes at the College."



Dan Wilson, Rockville and Takoma Park/Silver Spring Chair of Anthropology, Criminal Justice, and Sociology

Joined MC in 2006

"After summer break, I'm very excited about seeing our students again. It is empowering to be immersed in the MC community that is engaged in intellectual curiosity and creativity."

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Science, Engineering, and Technology



Nawal Benmouna, Rockville Chair of Engineering, Physical, and Computer Sciences

Joined MC in 2006

PhD in Experimental Nuclear Physics

"I am excited to contribute to Montgomery College's endeavor to enable our wonderful students' academic success."



David Hall, Germantown and Takoma Park/Silver Spring Chair of Physical Sciences, Engineering, Computer Science, Cybersecurity, and Networking

Joined MC in 1999

PhD in Buddhist Studies with a related field in Military History and numerous industry certifications in networking and cybersecurity

"I love working with the students in the classroom!"

Chemical and Biological Sciences



Rashid Alam, Rockville Chair of Biology

Joined MC in 2001

ScD in Molecular Cell Biology

"It excites me to make a huge difference in the lives of students who choose to come to MC for economic hardship or academic under-preparedness."



Laura Anna, Rockville Chair of Chemistry

Joined MC in 2011

PhD in Organic Chemistry

"I am most excited about the growth and opportunities for students in the STEM disciplines."



Nelson Bennett, Takoma Park/Silver Spring Chair of Chemistry and Biology

Joined MC in 2004

MS in Biology

"Ensuring that we continuously provide a superior science education to our students and igniting the same passions for science that I experienced when I returned to College all those years ago, are my main professional goals."



Scot Magnotta

Joined MC in 2006

PhD in Genetics

"I am looking forward to the upcoming year as we move into and begin utilizing the new Bioscience Education Center on the Germantown Campus, which will provide new facilities and new opportunities for our students, faculty, and staff."

Want to go back to Kindergarten?

The Office of Academic Initiatives has developed an exciting new partnership with Montgomery County Public Schools that will link each of our campuses with a local kindergarten class.

Called "K to College," the initiative will bring MC students, faculty, and staff into the kindergarten classroom to introduce these young learners to the college experience, opening their eyes at the very beginning of their formal education to the possibilities that await them.

Participating kindergarten students will learn about academic program and careers, college athletic teams, and student organizations, all while having fun with you, our best ambassadors! Please help us encourage these young students to dream big about what they can accomplish in their lives by sharing your time and talents.

Each vice president/provost recently sent to their units information and forms to register for K to College participation.

I hope you will consider participating in this unique endeavor to go back to kindergarten! Details include:

- ◇ Programs runs from October 2014 to the end of the spring 2015 semester
- ◇ Each visit will last approximately 45 minutes and will take place at the children's schools
- ◇ Fun activities that you might consider leading include music and dance demonstrations, science "labs," painting sessions, foreign language exploration, just to name a few.

Please reach out to your vice president/provost's office to register soon!

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Mathematics and Statistics



Milton Nash, Takoma Park/Silver Spring Chair of Mathematics and Statistics

Joined MC in 2011

Phd in Mathematics

“There will be many great new opportunities for students! Faculty and staff are excited by the sense of new possibilities. Students can only benefit from that level of enthusiasm and new thinking.”



Ben Nicholson, Rockville Chair of Mathematics and Statistics

Joined MC in 2001

Phd in Mathematics

“I am excited about the opportunity the restructuring provides to streamline our processes for faculty, students, and staff.”



Darren Smith, Germantown Chair of Mathematics and Statistics

Joined MC in 1999

MS in Mathematics Education

“I am excited about the opportunities available in this climate of change that will have an impact on our students’ lives in the year ahead and beyond.”

Health Sciences, Health, and Physical Education



Beth Ridings, Rockville Chair of Health and Physical Education

Joined MC in 2005

MA in Exercise Science

“We have a great discipline full of talented and dedicated faculty and I know we will do great things. I look forward to working with the faculty to make Montgomery College a healthier and happier place to be.”



Diane Barberesi, Takoma Park/Silver Spring Chair of Health Sciences

Joined MC in 2004

MS

“Working in the Health Sciences provides the opportunity to see long term goals of quality education witnessed every day in the lives of our community. You will find Montgomery College’s Health Sciences graduates in every hospital in the region and beyond.”



Dianna Matthews, Takoma Park/Silver Spring Chair of Nursing

Joined MC in 2004

MSN, RN

“I love working at MC. I believe in the mission and the focus on successful student outcomes. I am excited about the transition and looking forward to my contribution. I want to make a positive impact in the lives of the nursing students.”

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AELP, Linguistics, and Communication Studies



Angela Nissing, Takoma Park/Silver Spring Chair of AELP, Linguistics, and Communication Studies

Joined MC in 2005

MA in Applied English Linguistics

"I'm looking forward to a year of putting ideas into practice to help serve our students and our College community. With new faculty, new programs and curricular designs, new spaces under construction, it is exciting to see where we are headed!"



Jorinde van den Berg, Germantown Chair of AELP, Linguistics, and Communication Studies

Joined MC in 1999

PhD in English Literature

"I am excited about learning new things that will enable me to be a better chair person and about working with my colleagues (on all campuses) to make the American English Language Program and the Communication Studies program even better than they already are!"



Usha Venkatesh, Rockville Chair of AELP, Linguistics, and Communication Studies

Joined MC in 1988

MA in English Literature, MEd in TESOL

"I am excited by my new position and the possibilities it provides me to serve my discipline and the College. MC has a tradition of providing opportunities for faculty to follow innovative ideas and creative ways to engage and help students."

Humanities



Lee Annis, Rockville Chair of History and Political Science

Joined MC in 1986

PhD in American History

"It is great to know that I am working among a faculty and staff ranked rather recently as one of the top 11 community colleges in America."



Ivonne Bruneau-Botello, Takoma Park/Silver Spring Chair of Humanities

Joined MC in 2007

MA in Second Language Acquisition and Spanish

"I am excited about helping the Humanities Department at TPSS to be an example of best practices on academic leadership for the 21st Century, incorporating strong open communication and coordination in ways that encourage an effective learning environment for its students while making the department a center for professional growth for its faculty."



Sharon Fechter, Rockville Chair of World Languages and Philosophy

Joined MC in 1999

PhD in Spanish

"I am excited to watch our 13 languages blossom, especially our newest addition—Hindi!"

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Joe Thompson, Germantown Chair of Humanities

Joined MC in 2000

PhD in History

"This year I am excited about the same thing that excites me every year; working with our students."

Applied Technologies and Gudelsky Institute



Chantal Vilmar, Collegewide Chair of Applied Technologies and Gudelsky Institute

Joined MC in 2005

MEd

"I look at my role as an opportunity to strengthen partnerships with Montgomery County businesses. Those businesses will help us strengthen our programs so that our students learn the essential skills and knowledge they need to succeed while at the same time meeting the business community's need for a skilled workforce."

Collegewide Programs



Sara Ducey, Collegewide Chair of Integrative Studies

Joined MC in 1990

MS in Human Nutrition

"I look forward to forming new collaborations and alliances across disciplines and across the College as I seek ways to support and coordinate faculty efforts to design and provide rich, integrative learning opportunities for MC students in the classroom and beyond."



Lucy Laufe, Collegewide Chair of Honors

Joined MC in 1993

PhD in Anthropology

"This is a year of great promise for the Honors Program – the mission is to help our students achieve their academic goals with challenging curricular and co-curricular programs as they work towards completing their education at Montgomery College and to help them find transfer and merit scholarship opportunities."

Chair Institute,
July 2014

Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/MC_Academics

September 2014



Looking for professional development 24/7?

iStream is a web-based, multimedia portal by the League for Innovation in the Community College's that is available to you whenever you need it. MC Faculty, administrators, and staff can log in to access videos, articles, publications, and learning programs.

In addition, iStream provides access to League conference presentations, services, partnerships, and collaborative communities.

Access to iStream is free for College employees. Follow these simple directions to create your account:

- Go to <http://www.league.org/istream>
- Click on "Create Your iStream Account"
- In the next window, select Montgomery College from the dropdown menu
- Enter your first and last name and college email address
- Click "Submit"

You will receive a confirmation email with instructions on logging in and creating your password.

View the PDF in the link below for details about what you have access to through the iStream subscription.

iStream PDF: <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=66266>

