

# INTERSECTIONS

THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS CHRONICLES

## Message from Dr. Rai

Now three weeks into the spring semester, we already have quite a lot going on, and going well, as we work together to provide our students a quality academic experience. That starts with our president.

I hope you were able to catch Dr. Pollard on the Kojo Show earlier this week when she talked about the role of community colleges in higher education, and discussed the merits of President Obama’s proposal to offer two years of free tuition at community colleges.

workforce development. During both testimonies, council members remarked very positively on the efforts we put forth to partner with Montgomery County Public Schools, community and industry leaders, and our sister colleges and universities across the state to create clear pathways for students to get to and through college and into a career.

I want to thank our faculty members, department chairs, and deans who have worked so hard to build those critical connections with the external community. From your work with the school system and affinity groups on curriculum alignment and cross-communication that will better prepare students for college, to your efforts in building hundreds of links to the industries that will one day employ our students, you are making a marked difference.

Continuing the great progress we achieved in 2014, and as I promised at the Opening Meeting, the Academic Affairs division will focus on a number of academic endeavors in 2015. They all center on helping our students complete their degrees and move on to four-

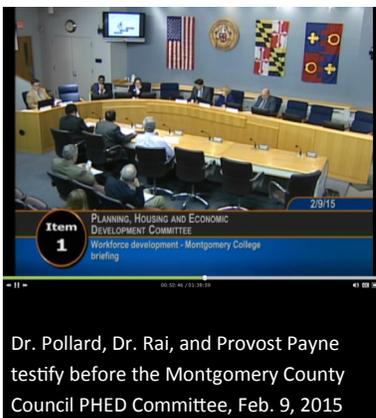
year programs or jobs.

We have several curriculum enhancements in progress, as the internally approved general studies program and online degree proposals in business and information systems seek state approval, and as the redesign of the College’s general education offerings continues. The Transform and Restructure Committee, led by Professors Tammy Peery and Michael Ferrell, has joined forces with the Montgomery College Innovation Works team to host nationally-recognized expert Dr. Paul Hanstedt for a discussion on general education reform. I encourage faculty and staff to attend.

As we work with the Student Services division to implement the approved Closing the Achievement Gap plan and requirements of the College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act (CCRCCA), including an academic advising model, this semester the Academic Affairs division will also officially kick off the process of developing the College’s first academic master plan in more than eight years.

I look forward to engaging in a series of meaningful discussions with faculty and staff on what College academics should look like in the next few years and on what areas we should focus to most fully achieve our educational mission. We need your active involvement in these discussions in order to create a meaningful academic plan that will engender our shared ideals to help students succeed. Stay tuned for opportunities to participate.

Thank you for your commitment to MC.

Dr. Pollard’s advocacy for our students (both current and future) continued as I joined her for two hearings before the Montgomery County Council—one on developmental education and the other on the College’s role in county

***Transforming General Education***  
***What, Why, and How Will It Affect Me?***  
**A presentation by**  
**Dr. Paul Hanstedt**  
 Friday, February 27, 2015  
 11:00am-12:30pm  
 BE 151  
 (Bioscience Education Center,  
 Germantown Campus)

### INSIDE

- Ethnography Study at MC Libraries
- List of Academic Deans and Department Chairs
- Assessment Update
- ELITE Statistics

## Synergy at MC: Libraries, Anthropology, Architecture

By Mr. Tanner Wray and  
Ms. Jane Williams

In the spring and summer of 2013 the MC Libraries mapped out an ambitious, multi-year project to apply anthropological principles to understand student needs for a 21<sup>st</sup> century academic library. Dozens of 4-year and university libraries have done and benefited greatly from these types of studies. The MC Libraries are the first independent community college to undertake such extensive ethnographic work.

We are studying the campus libraries over three academic years: Rockville in 2013, Takoma Park/Silver Spring in 2014, and Germantown in 2015. For each, a library-led project team of about 12 is recruited and trained by anthropologist, Dr. Nancy Foster, of Ithaca S+R.

We are finding out directly from library users and potential users what they need and prefer in library services, programs and spaces, using three methods: reply cards in the library, on-the-spot interviews outside the library, and design workshops. These methods provide a picture of student library use; work practices related to homework, studying and project work; and faculty and library staff needs related to the library.

The second strong contributor to this synergy is the College's Anthropology Department, and involving students from the College's Honors programs. At Rockville Anthropology had five classes of over 100 students in ANTH101, Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology, complete a complementary study. Student-researchers conducted student and faculty interviews. Faculty interviewed were from 10 different disciplines. The ANTH101 students also did observations within the Library.

We are relying and will rely heavily on Library and Anthropology's findings at each campus to re-design library spaces and assess and reallocate priorities around library resources, staffing and services. Anthropology faculty have been early and strong study partners, as have those in Architecture, a third strong academic contributor to the synergy.

This fall the students in ARCH201, Introduction to Architectural Design, worked from the two Rockville studies and information from Facilities to do new designs for us. Right now it is a class project, but who knows what it might become in the future. The students and professor worked overtime to create imaginative design ideas

which can stimulate and express imaginative solutions.

We have other MC partners too from beyond Academic Affairs. The project launched with early support from the Foundation via a \$5,000 Innovation Grant, followed by Facilities providing one year of consultant fees support as part of long-term facilities planning. Subsequent College support came as MC2020 Initiative funding, and the Libraries contributed funds to this and other assessment approaches. OIT has also been an active partner in improving our technology as a result of what we are learning. Further, Facilities has begun refurbishing the College's libraries.

Beyond the funding, we have created strong and actively engaged stakeholder groups of about 20 people for each

campus study – a blend of College and campus leaders to guide and advise us in our work.

The guidance and connections formed from our academic collaborations and collegewide stakeholders' feedback have been invaluable in shaping the project, expanding its reach in unexpected ways and changing the relationship of the Libraries to the College and Academy – from Libraries as support to Libraries as partner or lab. And that's synergy!

*Mr. Wray is the director of college libraries and information services and Ms. Williams is the ethnography/participatory design project coordinator*



*Above: One student's take on an ideal library space*

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## Deans and Department Chairs

At the request of many division members, we will print a list of current deans and department chairs in Academic Affairs at the start of every semester.

### Arts: Dr. Deborah Preston, Dean



Michael Farrell  
Rockville Chair of Art



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



Ed Riggs  
Rockville Chair of Media Arts and Technologies



Alvin Trask  
Rockville Chair of Performing Arts

### Business, Economics, Accounting, Computer Applications, Hospitality Management, and Paralegal Studies: Ms. Kathy Michaelian, Dean



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



Bill Johnstone  
Rockville Chair of Business and Economics

### English and Reading: Dr. Rodney Redmond, Dean



Elizabeth Benton  
Rockville Chair of English  
and Reading



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



Mary Robinson  
Germantown Chair of  
English and Reading

### Education and Social Sciences: Dr. Darrin Campen, Dean



Dr. Eric Benjamin  
Rockville Chair of  
Education and  
Psychology



Dede Marshall  
Germantown Chair of  
Education and Social  
Sciences



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

# INTERSECTIONS

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## Science, Engineering, and Technology: Dr. Muhammad Kehnemouyi, Interim Dean



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



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

## Chemical and Biological Sciences: Dr. James Sniezek, Dean



Rashid Alam  
Rockville Chair of Biology



Laura Anna  
Rockville Chair of Chemistry



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



Scot Magnotta  
Germantown Chair of Chemical and Biological Sciences

## Mathematics and Statistics: Mr. John Hamman, Dean



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



Ben Nicholson  
Rockville Chair of  
Mathematics and Statistics



Darren Smith  
Germantown Chair of  
Mathematics and Statistics

## Health Sciences, Health, and Physical Education: Ms. Angie Pickwick, Dean



Beth Ridings  
Rockville Chair of  
Health and  
Physical Education



Diane Barberesi  
Takoma Park/Silver Spring  
Chair of Health Sciences



Dianna Matthews  
Takoma Park/Silver Spring  
Chair of Nursing

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## AELP, Linguistics, and Communication Studies: Ms. Monica Trent, Dean



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



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



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

## Humanities: Dr. Sharon Fechter, Interim Dean



Lee Annis  
Rockville Chair of History and Political Science



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



Christina Gentile  
Acting Rockville Chair of World Languages  
and Philosophy



Joe Thompson  
Germantown Chair of Humanities

## Applied Technologies and Gudelsky Institute: Mr. Ed Roberts, Dean



Chantal Vilmar  
Collegewide Chair of Applied Technologies and Gudelsky Institute

## Business, Information Technology, and Safety: Mr. Steve Greenfield, Dean

## Adult English Language and GED Programs: Dr. Donna Kinerney, Dean

## Community Education and Extended Learning: Ms. Dorothy Umans, Dean

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## Collegewide Programs



Sara Ducey  
Collegewide Chair of Integrative Studies



Lucy Laufe  
Collegewide Chair of Honors

## Update on Current Assessment Activities

As of January 20, 2015, the Collegewide Assessment office joined the Office of Academic Affairs. Dr. Cassandra Jones joined Montgomery College this summer as the first Director of Assessment and has led the College Assessment Team of faculty in the third cycle of the General Education program. Last semester, faculty in the natural, physical, social and sciences assessed the General Education Competencies in their courses:

Number of courses assessed: 42  
Number of students assessed: 6,372  
Number of course sections assessed: 455

Information about the CYCLE B (Humanities and Mathematics) is available [online](#) under *Fall 2014 Newsbrief*.

Assessment of General Education competencies will continue in several courses this semester and will include a pilot of random sampling to increase efficiency and maintain validity in the data gathering process. The faculty will receive information about entering data in mid-March. Planning will soon begin for the next cycles of General Education and program assessment, which will feature a revised College Area Review (CAR) process and an expanded implementation of random sampling to ease the process, based on requests from faculty and national best practices. Look for more updates in future editions of this newsletter.

## Did you know?

The Office of E-Learning, Innovation, and Teaching Excellence (ELITE) is responsible for overseeing distance education and faculty development at Montgomery College.

The office was created as a component of the redesigned academic structure to combine and enhance the services of the former Center for Teaching and Learning and Office of Distance Education Learning Technologies.

ELITE's report on first-year impact of its operations shows sharp increases in both areas of responsibility from fall 2013 to fall 2014:

- ◇ 26% more faculty training sessions
- ◇ 52% more attendees at those sessions
- ◇ 6% increase in enrollment in online and blended classes

## Spring Enrollments

	Spring 2015	Spring 2014	
Online	6331	5858	
Blended	2208	2176	
	8539	8034	+6.28%

More than 915 F2F sections using Bb; about 600 last spring  
52.6% increase

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