

INTERSECTIONS

THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS CHRONICLES

Message from Dr. Rai

With the academic year nearing its end, it seems we are hearing great news every day from our students—about awards, scholarships, and acceptances into transfer programs. It is one of my favorite times of year; a time when we celebrate with them and can reflect on the impact we have on the lives of our students. Every time I get a call or e-mail telling me of another success, I realize exactly why I love my job. I know you feel the same way.

which is a tangible nod to the good work you do day in and day out to help our students succeed.

As this time of year is always busy, we returned home to several major academic developments underway.

After hosting final presentations of the three model options, the General Education Transform and Restructure Committee launched the voting period for the full-time faculty. Voting ends on May 8 at 5 p.m. **All full-time faculty members should vote.** Visit the General Education [lib guide](#) for more information.

The Closing the Achievement Gap Implementation Team was also hard at work to engage the College community in discussions about how we will meet this critical priority.

Scheduled Forums:

Thursday, April 30, 2015

9-11 a.m. GBTC 401
1-3 p.m. GBTC 401

Friday, May 1, 2015

9-11 a.m., Rockville, SC 152
1-3 p.m., Rockville, SC 152

Monday, May 4, 2015

9-11 a.m., Germantown, HT 216
1-3 p.m., Germantown, HT 216

Tuesday, May 5, 2015

9-11 a.m., Takoma Park/Silver Spring, HC 120
1-3 p.m., Takoma Park/Silver Spring, HC 120

The goal of these collegewide forums, entitled "Achieving the Promise: Montgomery College's Approach to Closing the Achievement Gap," will be to provide:

- (1) An explanation of the Achievement Gap;
- (2) An overview of the work that was done by the Closing the Achievement Gap taskforce and implementation teams;
- (3) A closer look at Montgomery College data and where gaps

exist; and

(4) A 500-foot view of the implementation plan submitted to the President for consideration.

Participants will also be asked to provide feedback on ways to help Montgomery College's students achieve their fullest potential.

Please attend one of these discussion forums to remain fully engaged in one of the College's top priorities.

As we finish out the last month of the semester, please know that I am grateful for everything you do. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Closing Meeting on May 19.

Thank you for your commitment to MC.




Montgomery College colleagues celebrate Dr. Pollard's win as the 2015 Emerging Leader at the AACC Awards of Excellence Gala, April 20, 2015.

Earlier this month, I was very proud to join some of our colleagues at the AACC annual convention. Our presentations were well received, and we are still buzzing about Dr. Pollard's recognition as the Emerging Leadership Award recipient,

INSIDE

- NIST Student Intern Presentations
- Transfer Conference
- One Button Studio
- GHI Partnerships
- MC Smithsonian Faculty Fellowship Program

INTERSECTIONS

THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS CHRONICLES

NIST Interns Present their Research

Each year Montgomery College students are eligible to apply for internships at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), during which they work closely with some of the world's top scientists.

At the end of their internship, students present their scientific research to their NIST mentors and MC professors. This year

15 MC students will make their year-end presentations on May 5-6.

Under the direction of Professor Susan Bontems, the College's partnership with NIST is truly impactful for MC students, offering them a chance to pair an open-access educational environment to an intensive learning experience where they are exposed to the

best scientific practices and minds.

NIST has given the College a \$500,000 grant to support the internship program, which is expected to, in time, produce a strong regional research and development workforce that is reflective of our demography.

Transfer Conference

MC's Office of Articulation and Transfer is constantly working to create new pathways for MC students to continue their education in four-year programs, with a current count of more than 40 institutional partnerships that garner over 100 pathways to a bachelor's degree.

The Transfer Scholarship Coordinating Committee also works throughout the year to promote scholarship opportunities for outstanding students. The committee is currently planning the **10th Annual College Scholarship Conference**, to be held at USG on Saturday October 10, 2015.

The decade-long tradition is free of charge and offers MC students, high school juniors and seniors, parents, and community members an opportunity to obtain important information on scholarship availability and best practices for completing applications. For more information, visit:

www.montgomerycollege.edu/scholarshipconference

The One Button Studio

The Office of E-Learning, Innovation, and Teaching Excellence (ELITE) is offering a tool that allows faculty to easily record videos and lectures to enhance the classroom experience.

What is the One Button Studio?

The One Button Studio is a simplified video recording setup that you can use to create high-quality video projects without having any previous experience with computers, software, lights, or cameras. Developed by Penn State University, the One Button Studio was designed with faculty and students in mind. This is a unique and automated setup which provides you with a simple alternative for producing a

portable high quality video recording very quickly and effortlessly.

What are Some Possible Uses in Education?

Students can record their practices for a public speaking class or prepare for an upcoming interview. A professor can plan ahead and pre-record a class lecture to share in Blackboard. A staff member can promote department services and record an informational video to embed on a department website.

What are Some Advantages of the One Button Studio Over Other Video Recording Options?

The One Button Studio records video in high definition, provides

quick results, is efficient, and promotes a positive user experience. It strongly supports student learning and professional development.

Where Can You Find a One Button Studio to Create Your Future Project?

The ELITE group at the Germantown campus has a One Button Studio ready for faculty and staff use in the PK building. For a reservation, go to <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/elite/one-button-studio-booking-request-form/>. This summer the One Button Studio will also be made available to students at each campus library with an online reservation.

For additional information about the One Button Studio, contact Gloria Barron or Jeana Beaulieu in ELITE.



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THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS CHRONICLES

GHI Partners with SENCER

MC's Global Humanities Institute has recently strengthened the College's relationship with SENCER—or Science Education for New Civic Engagements and Responsibilities—an entity initiated under the National Science Foundation to improve undergraduate STEM education through academic partnerships.

The College was recently awarded a scholarship to allow five community members to attend SENCER's summer

institute.

And last month, GHI and SENCER convened a group of interdisciplinary humanities faculty and a group of STEM faculty to initiate conversations and collaborations between the two seemingly disparate academic areas by discovering the ways they can benefit from contributions of the other.

Titled "STEAMed Rice," the discussion used food as the theme for the day. Attendees

engaged in thoughtful conversation on such topics as global

hunger, the myth of scarcity, fermentation in bottles and in history, and others. In her keynote address, SENCER's director of programs, Dr. Eliza Reilly, talked about efforts on the STEM front to engage the humanities.

What resulted from this conference is very telling and useful for future endeavors like this one. One faculty member aptly noted, "I learned a lot by discussing the same subject with an English professor, a nutritionist, and a librarian. I don't often speak about teaching with such a diverse group."



New Global Partner Visits MC

Earlier this month, Montgomery College faculty and administrators welcomed leaders from O.P. Jindal Global University to discuss next steps in the memorandum of understanding that the two institutions signed last fall during the College's mission trip to India. Dr. Raj Kumar, vice chancellor, led the university's delegation and learned about the College's Global Humanities Institute, Paul Peck Humanities Institute, Renaissance Scholars, as well as our cybersecurity offerings and study abroad plans. The visit concluded with a tour of the Rockville Learning Center. This new partnership with O.P. Jindal Global University is part of the College's commitment to global education and engagement.



O.P. Jindal Global University
A Private University Promoting Public Service

Celebrating the 2014 MC Smithsonian Faculty Fellows

MC is proud to take part in a unique collaboration with the Smithsonian Center for Learning and Digital Access that offers fellowship experiences to a cohort of faculty each year. The partnership distinguishes MC as the first community college to engage with the Smithsonian Institute in this way. On April 30, College faculty and administrators join Smithsonian colleagues to celebrate their partnership and the 2014 Smithsonian Faculty Fellows, following their one year of exploration in the world of museum-based learning. The fellows presented their work earlier this semester.

We also use this celebration as a chance to thank our long-time liaison, Manjula Kumar, as she leaves her role at the Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies.

The 2015 faculty cohort completed their seminars at the Smithsonian this semester, and will focus in the fall on their curriculum transformation projects. The cohort is exploring the theme "I, Too, Am America: Understanding the American Immigrant Experience."



Questions? Contact MCAcademics@montgomerycollege.edu