

A Message from Dr. Sanjay Rai

It has been a busy spring semester so far, and I continue to feel inspired by our faculty, staff and students at every turn.

I was so pleased that 170 of you joined me for the first Academic Enquiries event on February 25th. This new series of monthly events is my attempt to connect with you while we are remote. I have missed my office hours on each campus every semester, and I plan to continue to connect with you virtually. The topic focused



on our honors programs, and we had the opportunity to hear from a remarkable student, Beverley Claire Okogwu, who learned about our honors programs via a flyer posted in a campus common area. Her journey is similar to that of so many of our students, and our hope, our goal, is that every student's journey is as remarkable. She started as a Computer Engineering major and changed to Computer Science. Finding that flyer was a turning point in her academic journey. She connected with faculty in the honors program who helped her hone her writing skills and encouraged her as she tackled her rigorous new program. She participated and took leadership roles in the math and computer science clubs. Beverley Claire transferred to Dickinson College following her graduation from MC. After being actively recruited by major IT corporations, she chose Oracle because it offered her the flexibility to continue doing research. In another year, with significant work experience, she will pursue a master's degree at Carnegie-Mellon University. Her remarkable story, I think you will agree, was captivating.

There was an element of chance as to how she connected with the honors program. While chance can be exciting, I could not help but wonder how many undiscovered Beverley Claire's we have at MC. How can we be more deliberate in connecting students early in their journey at the College? While it is not possible to have every student enrolled in honors, I encourage all of you to seek ways to expose your students to some of the experiences that can be transformational. For example, we have taken students to the Smithsonian for years for an incredible learning experience, and now during the pandemic, we have been able to bring the Smithsonian to our students. The virtual world opens so many doors. It will be with us after COVID. How can take advantage of these opportunities going forward so that more of our students benefit? How can we connect with students like Beverley intentionally - not trusting chance? How can we inspire all of our students?

Speaking of inspiration, the Global Humanities Institute's STEAMed Planet event was held on Friday. It was a very timely event as the evidence for climate change continues to grow. This GHI event explored the intersections between global humanities and STEM to address climate change. Science alone cannot provide the solutions. Human behavior has contributed to climate change. Changing human behavior must be part of the solution. Can the humanities offer an opportunity for deeper conversations? I believe so, and enjoyed the table topics being presented by our faculty. More information, including how to access the presentations, is provided below.

Last week we also celebrated OER week. Many of you are deeply engaged in this work. I celebrate you all and the work you have been doing! Over 10,000 students each semester benefit from OER sections, and you have saved our students over \$7.2M since we started focusing on this five years ago. ELITE has more information on OERs and the workshops and videos that showcase the latest achievements at MC (please see below for more information).

On a final note, I thank all of you who responded to the Employee Engagement Survey over the last two weeks. It is so important to have your voices included. Conversations on employee satisfaction and engagement need a starting point at an institution as large and complex as Montgomery College. The collective input will help guide decisions that affect us all.

I am ever humbled by the wonderful work you do. I look forward to seeing you soon (virtually).

Sanjay

STEAMed Planet Exploring the Intersections of Global Humanities and STEM through Climate Change

On Friday, March 5th, the Global Humanities Institute sponsored the STEAMed Planet: Exploring the Intersections of Global Humanities and STEM through Climate Change. Our complex, profoundly connected world poses challenges that cannot be met by any single area of study. This event examined climate change from an integrative,



Join MC faculty, staff, administrators and students for an afternoon of rich interdisciplinary discussion of this critical issue!

TABLE TOPICS

able1: Visual Depictions of Climate Change: I how Human Impact? — Amanda Miller (Art) & illian Backus (Biology, NVCC) : Can the Free Market Solve the Climate C ms We Can No Longer Avoid? – Arthur Gri

THE WORKSHOP INCLUDES

2:00-2:30 — Welcome and Opening Remarks by: • Cinder Barnes, Director, Global Humanities Institute • Margaret Latimer, Vice President and Provost, Germantown Campus • Sanjay Rai, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs :30-3:30 - Break-out Rooms with Table Topics 3:30-3:50 - Large Group Report-Outs

interdisciplinary perspective to reveal some of the many ways that STEM and the Humanities need each other. Table topics included: "Visual Depictions of Climate Change: How Can Art Show Human Impact?", "Documenting and Displaying Climate Change Using Proxy Data Sources", and "Global Ecotourism."

Visit the GHI website for more information, including the table top presentations (which will be posted soon).

Proxy Data Sources — Chip Gladson (English) and Bill Krayer (Meteorology)	3:50-4:00 — Closing Remarks
Table 4: Teaching Climate Change – David Fallick (ELAP) and Teresa Peachy (Meteorology)	Global Humaniti Institute www.monitom Faculty and staff pleas Learns in Workday to on development credit. MyMCTraining and Profess MC Learns/Topics/Teaching Select the date and time/Cile Add to Calendar/View Lesso
Table 5: Human Ecodynamics and Integrating Humanity into Environmental Science – Kevin Gibbons (Anthropology) and Alejandra Morales Picard (Psychology)	
Table 6: Ocean Acidification – Anita Mohan (Chemistry, NVCC) and Rita Kranidis (ENGL)	
Table 7: Global Ecotourism – Craig Benson (Chemistry) and Greg Malveaux (English and Study Abroad)	
Table 8: Climate Change in Literature — Cinder Cooper Barnes (English) and Victoria Schneider (Environmental Biology)	
Table 9: Making Teachers out of Students: Optimizing Action and Expression through Project-based Learning — Brandon Wallace (Education) and Ingrid (Van) Scott (Mathematics)	

Institute MONTGOMERY COLLEGE www.montgomerycollege.edu/ghi lty and staff please register through MC ns in Workday to receive professional lopment credit. Iopment credit. //Training and Professional Development tab/ aams/Topics/Teaching and Learning/Select Offering/ the date and time/Click Submit/Click Done/ o Calendar/View Lesson

Humanities

Students and quests may register using this link: http://www.com/actional-actionactional-actional-actional-acti For more information, please contact Carol Moore at carol.moore@montgomerycollege.edu This 6th Annual STEAM event is sponsored by the Global Humanities Institute and ELITE

Microcredentials at MC

Montgomery College (MC) offers programs, units, and discipline areas the opportunity to create microcredentials. A microcredential is a digital form of certification, also known as a badge, that assesses specific competencies. They



represent certain skillsets that align educational programming with business needs and allow badge earners to validate specific career readiness competencies through attainment. The badge certifies that the earner has demonstrated specific skills/competencies and the badge becomes part of the earner's personal digital portfolio. By clicking on the badge icon, shared in a resume or online profile, the reader will see the list of competencies and what is required of the earner to attain the badge. For a full listing of current badges visit MC's Acclaim Platform.

As of today, 127 badges have been issued to MC students and employees, 106 of which were earned in the past year! These range from 11 employees completing the LDI program and earning a Leadership badge to 18 students earning the Interculturalist badge through the Anthropology department. The Student Life L.E.A.D.S. program issued 54 Leadership badges, while the Macklin Business Institute had 41 badges issued in the dimensions of Communicator and Leadership. The Southern Management Leadership Program offers students Entrepreneurial Mindset and Changemaker badges and MC Management has been approved to offer a Problem Solver badge to incoming employee learners in 2021.

The interest in badging continues to grow as it becomes increasingly apparent that the development of microcredentials is beneficial to MC's employees, students, and external future employers. The microcredentials initiative helps future job seekers, also known as our students, stand out during recruitment and potentially closes any "skill-gaps" that current valued MC employees are experiencing.

To find out more visit Microcredentials at MC, contact christine.crefton@montgomerycollege.edu for information on how to apply, and/or attend an upcoming information session.



OER Videos, Workshops Highlight MC Celebration of Open Ed Week

Open Education Week was an opportunity to learn and to showcase the latest achievements in open education around the world. The College celebrates the week each year by promoting its open educational resources (OER) work.

OER are, according to the Hewlett Foundation, "teaching, learning and research materials in any medium that reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license that permits no-cost access, use, adaptation and redistribution by others with no or limited restrictions." Often cited are what are known as the 5Rs: retain, reuse, revise, remix, and redistribute. MC instructional Michele Knight (retain) and professors Thomas Chen (revise), Chip Gladson (reuse), Craig Benson (remix) and Mary Robinson (redistribute) discussed what each R means to them in short video clips available <u>here</u>. Professor Andrea Foster kicked off the video series with an overview of OER.

This year, the Office of E-Learning, Innovation and Teaching Excellence offered several workshops focusing on OER:

- What are Open Educational Resources, and Why Should We Care?
- E-Textbooks: Find Alternatives from Licensed Library E-Books OER and Social Justice: Transforming the Teaching and Learning Environment

These workshops will be offered again for those who missed them. For more information on OER, contact ELITE.

MC Proud: 7 Jack Kent Cooke Semifinalists

Seven MC students have been named Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship semifinalists. This is tribute to the rigor of the MC courses and dedication of our faculty. They were chosen from a pool of over 1500 applicants. JKC Undergraduate Transfer Scholarships contribute up to \$40,000 annually towards a bachelor's degree. Finalists are announced in April, based on academic performance, leadership, perseverance, and service to others. Selected scholars will be announced in late April. Six of these students are Honors Program students: 2 Montgomery Scholars, 3 Renaissance Scholars and 1 STEM Scholar. MC is proud to have again the most semi-finalists among Maryland community colleges.

Please send recognitions to laurie.savona@montgomerycollege.edu

Part-time Faculty Spotlight

February 2021 - Elvan Katmer

Elvan Katmer's road to Montgomery College was paved about 15 years ago when as an undergraduate at Gazi University in Ankara, Turkey he studied English Language Teaching. Katmer is currently teaching part-time in the English and Reading department on the Germantown campus. He began teaching at the College in the fall of 2016.

Katmer's first love was teaching, however, when he moved to the United States he decided to change careers. He received his master's degree in journalism from Georgetown University, and he is currently a broadcast journalist at one of the major television networks.

Read much more here.





March 2021 -Michael Balagtas

Many of us have had the experience of undergoing an ultrasound or some other type of diagnostic imaging in our lives. MC has a unique and vibrant program that teaches students

the skills necessary to land a job in this growing health care field.

Michael Balagtas is a part-time faculty member in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program. He knows the program well. He graduated from it in 2019 and began teaching at Montgomery College soon after. Balagtas has been teaching at the College for the past two years.

His journey to Montgomery College has had several twists and turns, and he has never shied away from trying a new adventure. It began in 2002 when he joined the military and served as a Hospital Corpsman. Hospital Corpsmen provide medical care to sailors and other military members. They are part of the U.S. Navy, however; they also have a Marine Corps unit which is where Balagtas belonged. He helped patients on both land and sea. He left the military after 5 years and then became a federal agent with the Department of Homeland Security.

Read much more here.



Click anywhere on this flyer to connect to Zoom

ZOOM MEETING INFO

Direct URL: https://montgomerycollege.zoom.us/j/92764202296 Phone Number: 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 927 6420 2296 Passcode: 301634

Each month, Dr. Rai invites you to discuss the tremendous work of Academic Affairs faculty and staff in supporting student success.

Responsive Pedagogy:

Decolonizing the

Curriculum

followed by

Open Office Hours



Congratulations to Stephen Kcenich and Maria-Elvira Luna-Escudero-Alie on their recently published article "La poesía de Borges y las matemáticas: un colectivo de aprendizaje," *Ciencias*, 135

link

Look for a calendar invitation

Each event includes open office hours