Montgomery College Rising Professionals Association Fall 2022 Newsletter



President's Message

When I joined MCPRA, I was looking for my people, and as Amy Poehler said:

"Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you, spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life."

I found my people and haven't looked back since. This newsletter allows us to reflect on our achievements during this hectic fall semester. MCRPA has created so many exciting offerings and opportunities to reconnect, rediscover, and reenergize, from an in-person Happy Hour to a virtual Chat and Chill, an Open House to welcome our newest and potential members to outside-of-work family and friend events like the MD Renaissance Festival, fall fun at Summers Farm, and axe throwing in Columbia. We can't forget the fun Halloween virtual gathering and the annual holiday potluck that filled us with joy, laughter, and delicious food.

However, MCRPA isn't all fun and games. Together, we volunteered across all three campuses at the Mobile Markets. Many members continued to offer services once we experienced the direct impact this initiative has on our community. We did some learning together, too, from hosting Mr. Collette as part of our Chats with Chief series as well as a fantastic career change panel (direct from membership talent) Dr. Lozupone, Dr. Newton, and Ms. Bloch-Rincan who also gave us, besides nuggets of wisdom, an insider look into the IgniTe Hub. What about

all the great work behind the scenes? We had our first MCRPA Cookbook, Monthly Membership Spotlights, and the Weekly Digest!

As we approach 2023, the MCRPA leadership team has already started planning our upcoming calendar of events. Throughout the spring semester, there will be opportunities for targeted professional development, including our Annual Retreat and additional opportunities to network with each other and grow together. And as always, it's the MCRPA way to add fun, so additional events will be announced throughout the spring semester.

If you are interested in joining one of our standing committees, there is room for you in the Community Engagement and Events, Membership, Marketing, and Communications, and Professional Development committees. These committees work together to bring you high-quality programming that attempts to meet all members' needs. Email MCRPA if you are interested in any of these opportunities to get involved. If you have an idea for an event or program, please speak up and share. This is your association; your voice, talents, and ideas make MCRPA successful.

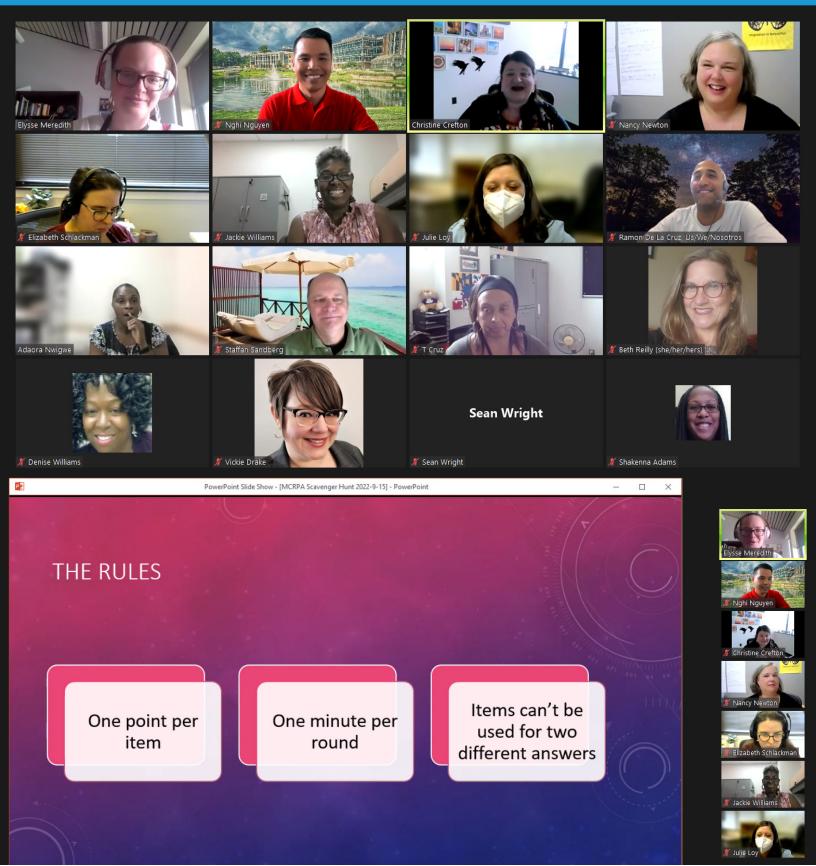
On behalf of the MCRPA leadership team, thank you for making MCRPA a model for professional growth and friendship across the MC community. Your continued engagement and willingness to lean into leading speak to your dedication to our student's success and this employee-led community. We wish you a wonderful holiday season and a well-deserved break, and we'll see you in the new year!

Dr. Christine Crefton, President, 2022-2024

Social Hours at Uncle Julio's

The Fall semester began with our Social Hours at Uncle Julio's in Gaithersburg on September 8. MCRPA members came for delicious food, drinks, and wonderful conversations. It was a great event to kick off the semester. For some members, it was their first MCRPA event they had attended since joining the association.





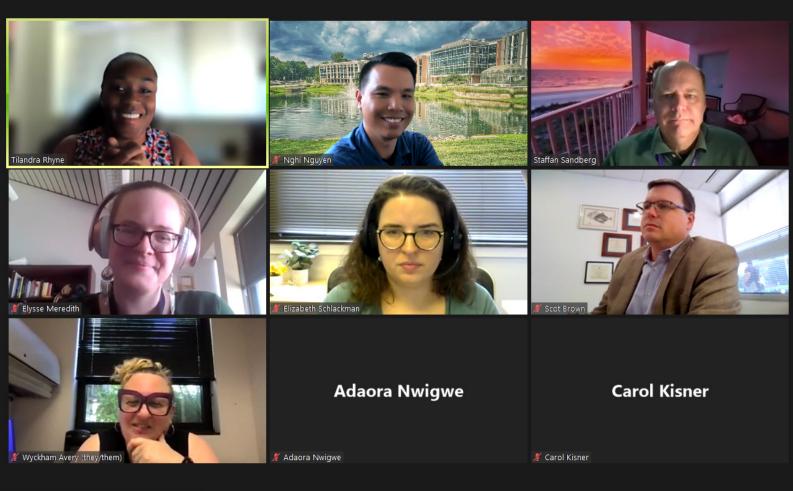
Zoom Chat and Chill

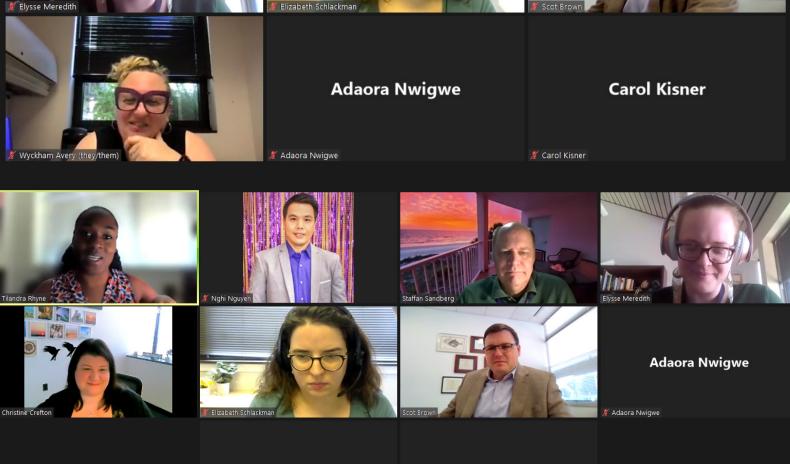
We had a fantastic time seeing everyone for the relaxing and energizing Zoom Chat and Chill event on September 15! Members shared what their alternate career would be if time and money were no object, and then we all made each other laugh with a scavenger hunt. We greatly enjoyed reconnecting over fun stories and silly selections!

MCRPA Open House

The Fall MCRPA Open House was held on September 20. For this event, MCRPA invited College's employees and newly joined members in the last six months to attend to get to know more about the association.

Members who attend the MCRPA Open House get a chance to meet with the leadership team and the committee chairs and vice chairs. The Open House provides an opportunity for non-members to ask questions about MCRPA and also gets a preview of the upcoming schedule events.







Maryland Renaissance Festival

Huzzah! Nine members formed a fellowship to adventure back in time to the fantastical land of Crownsville, Maryland. We enjoyed food, music, and other fun in style!

The Maryland Renaissance Festival is a Renaissance fair set in a fictional 16th-century English village named Revel Grove. The festival is spread over 27 acres.

Fall Fun at Summers Farm

During our trip to Summers Farm, over ten members enjoyed hay rides and pumpkin picking during the day and a firepit and fireworks after dark.





Chats with the Chief with Mr. Sherwin Collette

More than 20 MCRPA members and College employees joined our latest Chat with the Chief on October 26, 2022. Mr. Sherwin Collette, Senior Vice President for Administrative and Fiscal Services, spoke about his career, what brought him to MC, and shared valuable lessons.

He quoted, "If it's to be, it's up to me," which was a real finger-snapping, bulb-lighting moment that has surely fired up many members of the audience. Kimberly Bloch-Rincan expertly hosted the event. We hope to have more events with Mr. Collette in the future.

Halloween with MCRPA

MCRPA hosted its annual Halloween gathering on Zoom on October 27. Over 19 members gathered on Zoom in costume (whether real or a Zoom filter) to have some spooky fun and games.





Mobile Market

Throughout November, we volunteered at the Mobile Markets in Germantown, Rockville, and Takoma Park/Silver Spring. Several members enjoyed the event so much that they also volunteered in December!

MCRPA Axe-Throwing

For our final off-campus excursion of the fall, we attempted axe-throwing! Loud, scary, and highly entertaining, the most dangerous part was laughing too hard! The event was held on November 8 in Columbia, Maryland.





ignITe Hub Visit and Career Change Panel

MCRPA had a chance to tour the ignITe Hub on the Rockville Campus on December 5. Additionally, members received some insightful details from our Career Panelists.

The ignITe Hub is a collaborative space created to ignite and inspire innovation in Montgomery County.

Holiday Potluck

We gathered at the end of the semester for a delicious and entertaining potluck! In addition to food, we participated in trivia, games, and a photo booth to celebrate the end of the semester and the year!





MCRPA Travel Postcards

Visit our Facebook group to read what our members are saying about their wonderful trips with their travel postcards. <u>Complete the MCRPA Travel Memories form</u>. We would love to hear your amazing travel stories from past or recent years!

MCRPA Cookbook

Take a look at our first MCRPA Cookbook or view MCRPA Cookbook Flipbook. Try these recipes this holiday season. Share some of your cooking on our Facebook group!



Welcoming Our Newest Members

Since July 2022, MCRPA has welcomed 15 new members. The Association now has 110 active members that include administrators, faculty, and staff. Below are the new members who have joined MCRPA.

Jennifer Baugh, Carol Kisner, Marsha McLean, Bonita Parker, Scot Brown, Stephanie Banks, Raul Marin, Anna Donohoe, Megan Calvert, Dianne Cherry, Neda Bolourian, Evan Blanpied, Megan Cooperman, Tiffani Smith, Carla Ammerman, and Chantelle McKoy.

You can learn more about some of these members who are featured in the MCPRA Monthly Member Spotlight.

Contact Us

Email us at mcrpa@montgomerycollege.edu or visit us at https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/offices/mcrpa/



Wishing everyone a Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

