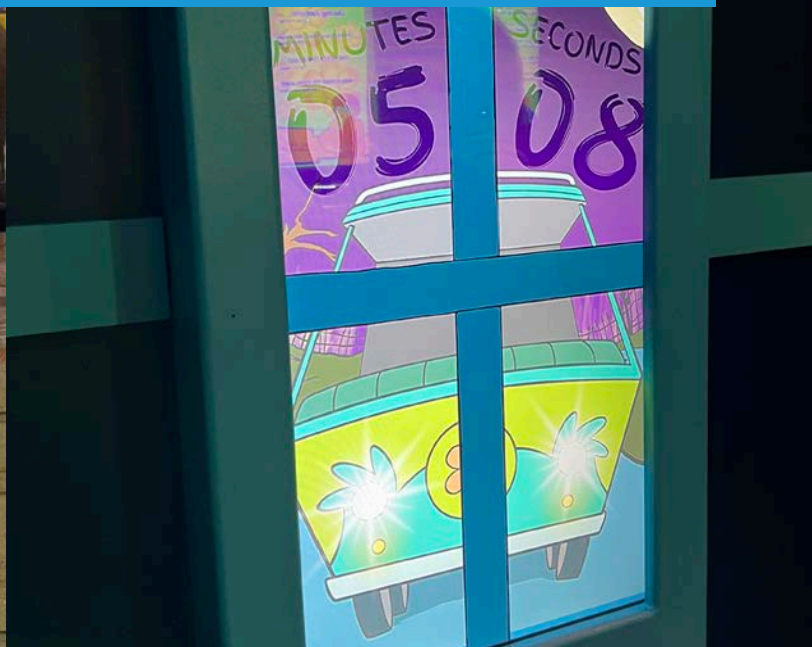




MONTGOMERY COLLEGE RISING PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION

FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER



Message from the president...



As the year draws to a close, MCRPA reflects on a semester filled with vibrant connections, community spirit, and joyous celebrations. This Fall 2023 has been a whirlwind of activity, but amidst the hustle, we've found opportunities to come together and strengthen our bonds.

We started the semester with an exciting college-wide scavenger hunt, introducing everyone to our Teams site – the digital platform that keeps us connected and informed. This year also saw the birth of spontaneous “pop-up” activities, a delightful addition to our calendar. Members stepped up, organizing and inviting others to partake in thrilling escapades like escape rooms and enchanting light walk-throughs.

Our journey of collective learning continued with engaging lunch and learns, laying the foundation for community conversations that extend ELITE's

pedagogical discussions. Our commitment to innovation in member engagement and outreach has been unwavering, and it's exhilarating to witness our community grow day by day. I beam with pride at the strides we've made. My heartfelt wish echoes the sentiments of Kelly Clarkson's song: “for friendship to abound, for right always to win, and for love to be an everlasting presence in our lives.” In 2024, I hope that MCRPA will capture the spirit of these goals.

Thank you to all our members, and a warm welcome to the newcomers in our midst. Let's enter the new year by celebrating our shared achievements and a renewed spirit of camaraderie. Enjoy your well-deserved break and happy holidays!

With love and gratitude,
Christine Crefton, MCRPA President



EVENTS

August 24, 2023 Governance Training



Some of our MCRPA members began the year by participating in Governance Training. These individuals were elected to serve as Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary of their respective council, including the College Council.

MCRPA members engage in MC Governance annually, aside from their involvement in various College committees, task forces, planning groups, and more.

September 30, 2023

Renaissance Fairs

We (including Chucky) had a fantastic time at this year's Renaissance Festival. Despite the large crowds, everyone who snapped photos with Chucky made it out unscathed to share their experiences on Facebook and Instagram. Rest assured, no children were harmed while posing with Chucky.









October 21, 2023

Summers Farms



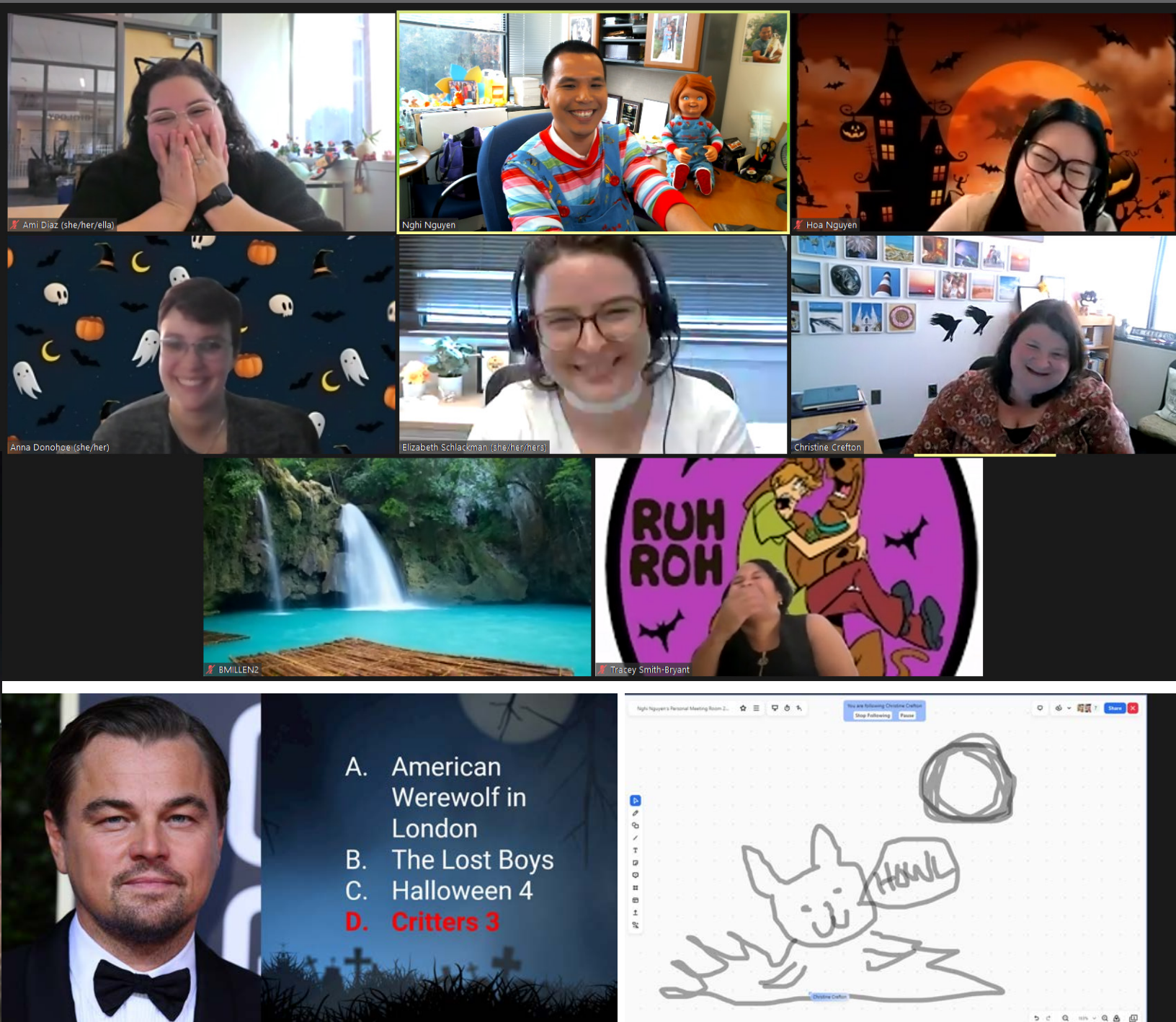
What a delightful evening with beautiful fireworks and a cozy fire pit! A huge thank you to President Christine and her husband Jeffrey for organizing the delicious food and setting up everything. For some of our members who attended, it was their first time enjoying s'mores—a true treat! With a table brimming with delectable dishes, it was an evening of abundance. As we gathered under the clear night sky, the fireworks dazzled us, and we savored the warmth of the firepit while sipping on delightful beverages.







October 26, 2023 Halloween Gathering



We experienced thrills, laughter, and witnessed incredible artistic talents during our lively game of Pictionary. The Halloween Gathering was a spectacle, showcasing amazing costumes and spine-chilling stories. Year after year, our annual Halloween festivities never fail to evoke the best laughs, even amidst the spine-tingling (supposedly) scary tales.



Christine Crefton



Watched
Hocus Pocus
this month

Owens
Halloween
earrings

Gives out
full sized
candy bars

Decorate house
every year

Dressed as a
Disney
princess

Lives near a cemetery

Can whip up
a mean
pumpkin pie

Owens a
black cat

Played with
a Ouija
board

Celebrates
Day of the
Dead

Drank a
pumpkin
spice latte
this week

Celebrated
Halloween in
another
country



Listens to
true crime
podcasts

Never seen the
movie
Halloween

Never dressed
up for
Halloween

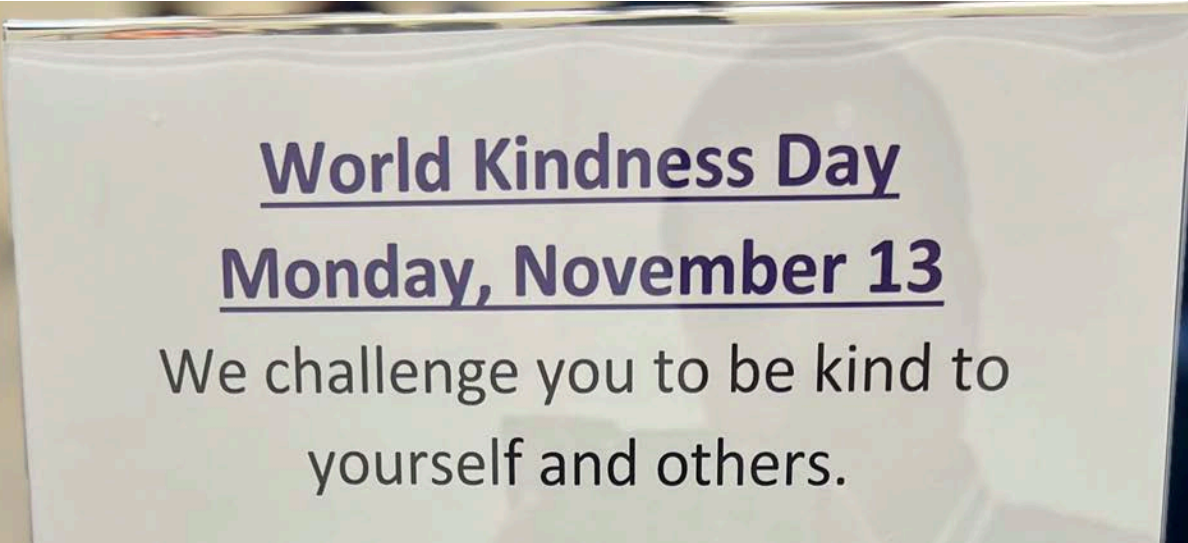
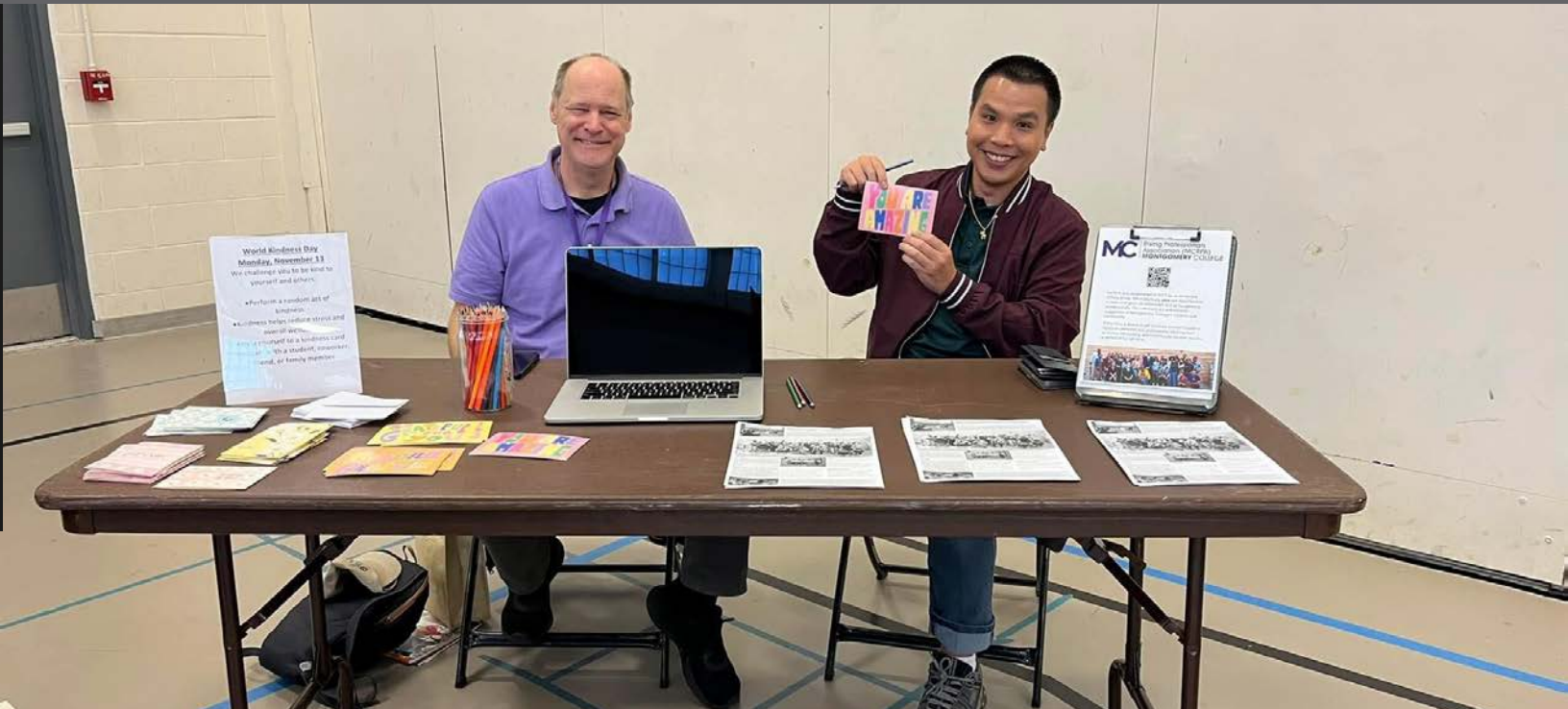
Hates
haunted
houses

Looks forward to Halloween all year

Afraid of spiders

Hates garlic
(might be a
vampire)

November 3, 2023 Open House



During the Open Enrollment Fairs, several of our members participated by hosting our Fall semester MCRPA Open House.

MC Wellness generously provided cards for all employees to distribute as a way to celebrate World Kindness Day.

We engaged in delightful conversations with employees who visited our table, addressing their inquiries about MCRPA.

November 20, 2023

Pop-Up Event: Scooby Doo Escape Room



Throughout 2023, MCRPA has organized several impromptu pop-up events, where members gather for specific activities and invite all interested parties to join in the fun. For November, our members opted for an exciting adventure—an Escape Room experience.

A group of us assembled at Escapology in National Harbor, immersing ourselves in a thrilling Scooby Doo-themed adventure. Amidst screams, mind-bending puzzles, and a lot of brainpower, the ultimate victory was met with bursts of laughter as we successfully cracked the mystery.

To cap off the night, the group enjoyed a delightful dinner at a Mexican restaurant.





December 6, 2023

End-of-Semester/New Year Gathering



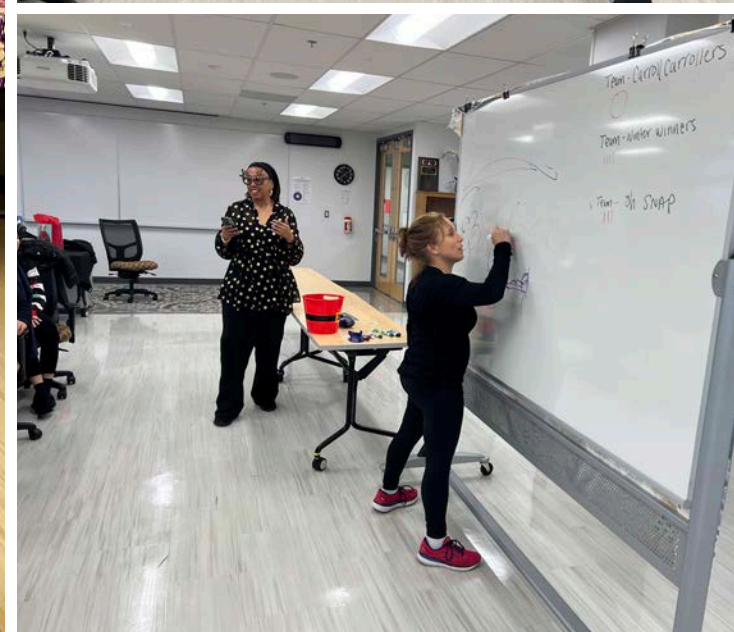
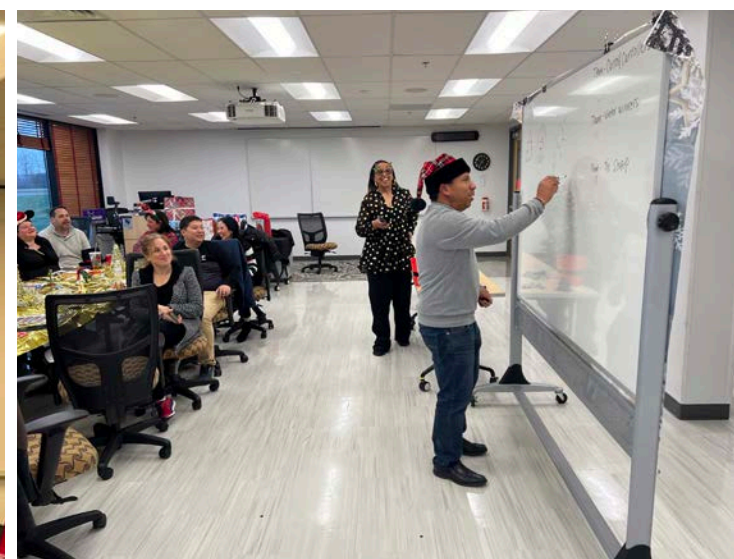
Nobody knows how to throw an end-of-semester party quite like MCRPA! Our members gathered for a range of enjoyable holiday games, a lively photobooth, and an array of delicious dishes to mark the end of the Fall 2023 semester. As part of the festivities, those who took part in the White Elephant gift exchange experienced moments of Grinch-like antics and unforgettable moments of laughter.

Most notably, a couple of members who hadn't been able to attend any in-person MCRPA events this semester—or even throughout the year—decided to join us for the joyful celebration, ending the year on a cheerful note.

We eagerly anticipate seeing all of you for the upcoming spring semester and are excitedly looking ahead to our collective adventure in Mexico scheduled for June 2024!









December 14, 2023
Pop-Up Event: Garden of Lights at
Brookside Gardens





Some of our members gathered for a night stroll along the beautiful Garden of Lights at the Brookside Garden located in Wheaton. The Garden of Lights display transforms Brookside Gardens into a magical winter wonderland. Stroll through the one-half mile, outdoor, walk-through exhibit and enjoy the twinkling lights and glimmering one-of-a-kind displays adorning the flowerbeds and grounds throughout the 50-acre horticultural gem in Wheaton.

Shop for unique seasonal items at the Gift Shop. Hot chocolate and light snacks are available for purchase. Garden of Lights open on November 17, 2023. The exhibit is open every night through December 31, 2023, except November 20-23 and December 24-25, 2023.

Tickets are \$10 per person, age five and older, and are only available to purchase online at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) starting October 10. Every person five and older must have a ticket. Tickets are timed entry with a specific day and entrance time for your arrival. Tickets are non-refundable. Garden of Lights is an outdoor, rain or shine event.





December 15, 2023

Pop-Up Event: A Candlelight Christmas





It was a magical night at the Stratchmore Music Center with our last pop-up event of the semester. The Candlelight Christmas concert, featuring the esteemed Washington Chorus, showcased an array of beloved holiday classics such as Silent Night, Jingle Bells, White Christmas, and We Wish You A Merry Christmas.

The concert hall glowed with the warmth of holiday cheer as the audience joyfully sang along with the chorus throughout the evening. There were so much laughter, joy, and happiness through the music and interaction between the conductor, chorus, and audience.

The Washington Chorus' "A Candlelight Christmas!" features a spirited brass, a festive chorus, and extra special guests to help you celebrate the season.

If anyone is interested in attending the concert, you can buy tickets for Saturday, December 16, 3:00 pm | Wednesday, December 20, 7:00 pm | Thursday, December 21, 7:00 pm | Friday, December 22, 8:00 pm. These concerts will be at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall.









VOLUNTEERS

Mobile Market









See You in Spring 2024!