

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

March 2011



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endless possibilities





President's Report to the Board



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Learning cannot be confined to a classroom. It cannot be confined to a college campus. It cannot be confined to the borders of our county, state, or country. The ideal education consists of building blocks collected over the course of a lifetime from a range of diverse sources.

For this reason, I traveled with College faculty, staff, and administrators to India this month to host a national symposium about the community college model. First Vice Chair Steve Kaufman covered his own expenses to join the College in this important venture. Additionally, we were joined by other community college, business, and government leaders who shared their own workforce development experiences with the symposium participants.

We embraced the trip to India as an opportunity to broaden our own perspectives and learn from the successes of educational institutions in India. I am appreciative that the grant from the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs at the U.S. Department of State covered 100 percent of our expenses. The College is honored to have been selected for this auspicious educational journey. The U.S. India Educational Foundation (USIEF) Fulbright Commission served as a tremendous partner, assisting the College with the grant implementation. I encourage you to review what we learned by visiting www.montgomerycollege.edu/indiainitiative.

Sharing the community college mission abroad is only one example of the College prioritizing international education. We know that being a successful community college today means preparing our students for the workforce of tomorrow. But it is not enough. To remain competitive in today's innovation economy, we must appreciate our place in global higher education and understand the varied cultures of our students.

My report this month focuses on how we are furthering global education on our campuses and in our community. Our student population represents more than 170 different countries. Our faculty engage in global issues, craft courses with an international focus, and work on projects around the world. Our curriculum includes courses that help international students learn about our country and courses that introduce a global perspective to students who have never traveled outside the United States.

At Montgomery College, diversity is more than a concept. From a student who has just graduated high school to an adult new to our country to a lifetime learner, our community embraces diversity as a source of strength. It is by looking outside our own experiences that we become more enriched individuals and create a more enriched community.

Board Discussion Questions:

1. Being so close to the nation's capital makes it easy to lose sight of life outside our Beltway. As a College, how can we strengthen our educational process by providing students with greater access to global perspectives?
2. What are innovative, cost-effective ideas to ensure our students receive international education while realizing that they—and the College—face certain budget challenges?

From the Field

Faculty Involvement

County Executive Ike Leggett recognized Counselor Evelyn Gonzalez-Mills this past fall for her outstanding contributions to the Latino community and the community in general through her work with the Latino parents in the county. She has been organizing Latino parents in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) since 1998 to increase their knowledge of the school system and to effectively advocate for the success of their children in school. This summer, Ms. Gonzalez-Mills will organize and lead a Montgomery County delegation that includes Executive Leggett, first lady Catherine Leggett, and more than 25 county residents to the Province of Morazán in El Salvador to execute the signing an official Sister Cities Agreement, which will encourage cultural, educational, economic, and charitable exchanges and partnerships between both communities.

During the fall 2010 semester, Ms. Gonzalez-Mills, in collaboration with Shelley Jones, world languages professor, successfully submitted a *Make It Happen* Innovation Grant (MIHIG) to organize a series of cultural events to celebrate the diversity at the college. These events were also supported by the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus Office of Student Life; the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Department; and the Writing and Reading Center. The events raised awareness and celebrated the Latino culture at the campus through an appreciation of literature, music, film, documentaries, and food.

Montgomery College maintains an active membership in the Maryland Community College International Education Consortium (MCCIEC) and Study Travel Coordinator Dr. Greg Malveaux is the current co-president of that organization.

Dr. Brad Stewart and his administrative team have participated in many cultural exchanges arranged through World Bank as well as several informational exchanges arranged through his contacts at the American Council on Education (ACE) and the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). Dr. Stewart was pleased to host a French delegation, members of the French Embassy and Michael Allen (interim associate vice president of international programs and services for AACC) for a tour and interactive exchange on the community college model of higher education. The French delegation is considering partnerships with community colleges in the United States. The group was especially pleased to hear from a French-speaking student so that they could gain a student's perspective on the community college experience. All exchanges have included students from the guests' country or origin who were able to describe, in their native language, how Montgomery College has contributed to their higher education success. Dr. Stewart and his team also have hosted delegations from China, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Scotland, Wales, and England. The latest group to visit campus in late February came from Seoul, Korea and Dr. Stephen Cain and Dr. DeRionne Pollard welcomed Korean and World Bank officials to campus to explain our successful community college model and workforce development partnerships.

Faculty from social sciences, education, history, health, and physical education discuss international issues related to health, political issues, and cultural differences across the curriculum. The area also holds forums that address cross-



cultural issues. For example, the Anthropology Department hosted *The Chinese Family Traditions and Changes* on February 18, and the area's capstone colloquium on *Globalization* was held on Feb. 28.

Each summer, English faculty teach English as a Second Language (ESL) courses at Macau Millennium College. Professors Swift Dickison and Will Pittman taught last year.

Bringing International Experience to the Classroom

Students share their international experiences in writing assignments, classroom discussions, and one-on-one student interactions. World languages, project management in global environments, English for Speakers of Other Languages, the Hispanic Business Training Institute, Citizenship courses, and many more Workforce Development & Continuing Education courses routinely speak to the global community in which we live.

Faculty teaching English courses continue to integrate reading and writing assignments on globalization topics such as immigration; world health issues; disparate treatment between the sexes; and exploring/understanding other cultures' family, education, and religious practices.

Enrollment in non-western languages has increased this year, especially in Chinese, Arabic, Korean, and Japanese.

The Gathering is a series of programs held throughout the year at the Rockville Campus to highlight the diverse backgrounds of the Montgomery College community. The programs often feature art, music and food from around the world and are intended to encourage discussion and interaction amongst people of different cultures. For example, on March 1, the program was *Rising by Degrees: Latino Students and the Completion Agenda*.

Most of the classes in the Business, Science, Mathematics, and Technology Division have a diverse population, including international students. Students in Professor Jackie Middleton's Introduction to Business (BA 101) just finished their international project where they had to introduce a new business concept in a foreign country. They researched the demographics— political and social— and the legal, economic, and cultural environment of the city in which they were going to open a small business. They also had to have a business concept and do a marketing analysis for that business. They gave PowerPoint presentations about the following countries and cities: Moscow, Russia; Beijing, China; Victoria Island Lagos, Nigeria; Paris, France; Mumbai, India; and Dublin, Ireland.

In the Renaissance Scholars Environmental Biology/Geology dyad (BI105 and GL101), students participate in several projects with international themes: they plan educational tours about the biology and geology of Surtsey, Iceland; they find solutions to agricultural problems and poverty in Madagascar; and they work on a project about flooding and water issues in Bangladesh. There will be a multi-dyad project where students will look at the effects of climate change on China, the Sahel, and other selected places around the world from a science perspective (BI/GL dyad) and from a sociological/historical perspective (SO/EN and PS/HS dyads).

Professor Ada Garcia-Casellas completed the Smithsonian Faculty Fellowship Program, where she was one of ten faculty members in the cohort and the first counselor to be accepted into the one-year program. The theme for this cohort was *Museums at a Crossroads: Engaging a "Post Racial" Society*. She incorporated the theme in her two First Year Seminar (DS107) classes this fall, one for domestic students, and the other, the American English Language Program (AELP) section, for international students. Her intent was to have students examine the assumption of a post-racial society and its significance in a nation of immigrants. Even though she had taught study skills for many years, this was the first time she had used a parallel theme that served to bring focus to her lessons. Working with a theme also gave her the opportunity to explore current events and their impact on students. They examined Montgomery College as a microcosm of society and compared Montgomery College demographics with those of society at large. The theme allowed Garcia-Casellas to center her discussions around the importance of higher education and new careers in a changing world. They read poetry and discussed books and articles on race, always returning to the question: "Are we post-racial?" The class used online resources to investigate art, history, and fashion from 1918 to 1972, the time period during which Norman Rockwell



painted his many classic “American” scenes; some of these paintings were on display at the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

A number of senior students enroll in our world languages courses to communicate with others, travel and keep their brains sharp by learning another language.

Bringing International Experience to Campus

Music Professor Dawn Avery coordinates the World Arts Festival, which hosts 10 –15 international guest musicians annually. This program is funded by the MC Arts Institute. Spring 2011 festival guests include Bulgarian musicians Dilyana Kirova and the Slaveya Choir and several Native American musicians. Professor Avery also directs the World Music Ensemble that provides MC students the opportunity to perform music of many different cultural traditions.

Works of international artists and exhibits with international themes are frequently presented in our galleries. This semester's exhibits in the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Arts Center include works by Cuban artist Victor Gomez and Latin American Folk Art from the Brubaker Collections. Professor Zdeno Mayercek's sculptures were on display throughout the month of February in the Sarah Silberman Gallery. Mayercek is a full-time Art Department faculty member who defected from Czechoslovakia in the 1980s.

This semester's Guest Artist Series in the Performing Arts Center and Cultural Arts Center features several international productions, including *Orquestra de Guitarras de Barcelona*, Sierra Leone's *Refugee All Stars*, the children's play *Barrio Grrll*, and the *Stars of the Bolshoi*.

The next performance of the Rockville Theatre Department is the play *Living Out*, which explores the experiences of nannies from Guatemala who work for wealthy American families. The upcoming performance of *The Tempest* will feature music and dance from Indian traditions in collaboration with local teachers of East-Asian art forms.

Each fall the Rockville Office of Student Life hosts International Student Week (ISW), during which students and clubs educate the Rockville Campus community about their cultural heritage and highlight the benefits of international education.

The Peace and Justice Committee presented the exhibition, *Transforming the Human Spirit from a Culture of Violence to a Culture of Peace*, in collaboration with Soka Gakkai International – USA (Buddhist Association for Peace, Culture, and Education), on the Germantown Campus from February 16–18. Through remarkable pictures and background information, the exhibition presented a view of global issues, the causes that contribute to creating a culture of violence, and how the trend can be reversed. It was a wonderful opportunity to involve the College community in taking an initiative to transform a culture of violence into a culture of peace. The opening reception included music, speakers, and docents to answer questions; featured were Bill Aiken, public affairs director of Soka Gakkai International, and David Smith, national educational outreach officer at the United States Institute of Peace. The United States Institute of Peace is an independent, nonpartisan institution established and funded by Congress to increase the nation's capacity to manage international conflict without violence.

Incorporating International Students

Workforce Development & Continuing Education (WD&CE) provides early childcare certification/training programs in Spanish. The College has many students who are studying English as a Second Language (ESL) as they transition into American life. Not only do the programs help teach English, they teach aspects of technology and adjustment so that they can achieve academically and professionally with fewer roadblocks. The College also is creating customized texts that address life stories as inspiration while developing reading/writing skills.



This spring, 16 students from Colombia, El Salvador, Peru, Honduras, Bolivia, and Italy attended WD&CE's Electricity Training Program in Spanish. The program, offered under WD&CE's Hispanic Business Training Institute, is comprised of four courses: 20 hours of theory and 60 hours of practice. Since 2008, the program has had the full support and cooperation of the Electricity Program within the Building Trades Program at the Homer S. Gudelsky Institute for Technical Education. Upon completion and presentation of a certificate of participation, students can obtain an apprenticeship electrician card from Montgomery County's Office of Permitting. This training has been very popular since 2008. Over the years, student profiles have varied: some are getting into this field for the first time; some have hands-on experience; some lack the academic preparation; some come from the unions without enough preparation, and some come seeking to change their lives because of low pay as a result of lack of formal training.

When students complete their training, they not only will be able to show their apprenticeship electrician card, but also show 80 hours of training, which is plus for those who work for the union as well for those who want to pursue a career as an electrician. As a continuation of this course, we are planning to offer preparation for the Journeyman Electrician exam in a bilingual learning format.

More than 2,400 students (33.4 percent) on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus are international students with the greatest concentrations, in descending order, coming from Ethiopia, Cameroon, El Salvador, Nigeria, Philippines, Ghana, India, Jamaica, Sierra Leone, and Vietnam.

International students new to Montgomery College can enroll in DS 104, Seminar for International Students. The catalog description says: "Orientation course for international students. Includes study skills, academic regulations, the American educational system, individual educational and vocational goals, communication skills, and American customs. Especially intended for students during their initial semester of enrollment in conjunction with American language development course offerings. Two hours lecture/discussion each week. 2 semester hours."

The American English Language Program (AELP) is designed for international students.

Speech communication faculty not only teach international students but also maintain a speech lab for non-native English speakers to work on their English language skills.

In microbiology (BI 203), Dr. Carol Allen and Dr. Margaret Birney report that students do a final oral research report on a topic in infectious disease, epidemiology, and control. International students are encouraged to report on infectious disease problems in their home communities. It is wonderful when they talk about the real life impacts of that disease on the communities from which they came.

Philosophy courses that focus on Asian thought and comparative religions attract many international students.

Created in 2001 by Dr. Harold Barber, international student coordinator, Global Connections was designed to provide an avenue to address the social, academic, and cultural interests of the international student community at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. Over the years, it has sponsored a number of activities including F-1 orientation, transfer workshops, and kick-off registration sessions. Dr. Barber also has brought in experts to discuss consumer education and health insurance matters. The most recent additions to Global Connections include Conversations and the International Buddy Program. Conversations launched based on the student survey results indicating a significant interest among students in enhancing their oral communication skills. The International Buddy Program provides a mentoring relationship between current international students and Montgomery College alumni.

Trips Abroad

Dr. Greg Malveaux makes opportunities available to individual MC students who wish to study abroad for a semester or longer and usually coordinates two or three such experiences annually. Short programs also are available. From December 27, 2010 to January 8, 18 MC students and community members studied history, language, culture, and culinary arts in Peru with three MC faculty members: Professors Malveaux, Fechter, and Hernandez-Fujigaki. Five MC



students participated with scholarship assistance from the MC Foundation and will present their projects at the MCCIEC Forum in April.

College Dean for the Arts Dr. Deborah Preston and Dr. Malveaux are collaborating with Professor Peg Mauzy, international education coordinator, and Dr. Marshall Botkin, professor of sociology at Frederick Community College, and Dr. Irina Pervova of St. Petersburg State University to write a Fulbright-Hayes Grant for a faculty development seminar to St. Petersburg, Russia in summer 2012.

In addition to an annual trip to Cambridge University, Montgomery Scholars research and make presentations on global issues for their sophomore capstone projects. The capstone research course focuses on international relations and globalization themes.

Ijeoma Otigbuo, microbiology professor, has been active with a number of international initiatives, including a trip in January 2010 to Senegal and Gambia as part of the College's international education program. She and other faculty led a group of students who completed the following projects and research: Amber Speights, nursing major, investigated factors that had made it possible for the low numbers of HIV-infected individuals in Senegal; Leila Cheraghpour, nursing major, investigated the efficacy of the traditional/herbal healing methods as compared to modern medicine; Dan Thomas was interested in Senegalese music and instruments; Tutu Saphilom, pediatric nursing major, was interested in procedures that could make adoption possible (and easier) for orphans and prospective parents; Debra Brown, health education major, was interested in holistic healing methods and practices versus spiritual traditional healing; Stephen Wood, homeland security major, was interested in finding out how cultural practices can affect national security; Esperanza Cardenas was interested in Senegalese Sculpture and politics; Grace Weaverling, psychology major, was interested in the socioeconomic and sociocultural differences between urban and rural women. Participating faculty spent time collecting information that would help them integrate international perspectives into their courses and strategizing on developing new blended courses for the future.

Student Extracurricular Activities

Among more than 225 university and professional chapters, Montgomery College is the only community college that has an official chapter of Engineers without Borders-USA (EWB-USA). An engineering student initiated the chapter and engineering students continue to maintain it. The organization's vision "is a world in which the communities we serve have the capacity to sustainably meet their basic human needs, and that our members have enriched global perspectives through the innovative professional educational opportunities that the EWB-USA program provides." Basic needs are often food and water security, health and sanitation, and infrastructure to support these. Students get experience in real engineering projects and international awareness. The chapter decided to focus on the Americas to keep the costs of travel to a minimum; thus, most of the money raised supports projects. The initial project was an orphanage in northern Mexico. While the chapter will maintain contact with them, the situation is currently too dangerous to develop the project (just south of Juarez). The group is working with the Chesapeake Professional chapter on the development of another project and partnering with them on their projects. There are two secure, tax deductible accounts to handle donations. A Montgomery College Foundation EWB@MC account was established to support MC students while working on projects. Donations made to the [national headquarters](#) are used only to support project-specific equipment, materials, and supplies.

The Macklin Business Institute (MBI) students and other students involved in Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) are in their second year implementing The One Hen Project, an interactive activity that teaches elementary and high school students about microloans and their role in developing countries. In addition to the educational component, MBI students also research and fund microloans through Kiva to assist budding entrepreneurs around the world.

The Walk in My Shoes global project (WIMS) is a non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C., with a mission to provide new and gently used shoes to children in developing countries around the world. MBI students and SIFE have assisted this organization by developing and maintaining a new WIMS website. They have organized shoe drives on our campus, at local high schools, and through partnerships developed in the local community. To date this year, they have



collected over 1000 pairs of shoes for future distribution in Haiti, Guinea, and Sierra Leone. MBI students and SIFE also are involved in an educational component for a global e-waste project. They have developed a video that has been posted on YouTube to educate people about improper disposal of computers, computer components, and cell phones and to educate them about proper recycling. The global component is that often these pieces of equipment are sent to foreign countries for recycling and hazardous fumes are emitted into the environment.

There are numerous student life clubs that further global and international education. The Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus notes there is vibrant student club support for many ethnic groups on campus and multicultural club activities fill the Student Service Atrium on a regular basis. Additionally, all clubs are strongly encouraged to address community need through participation in service learning projects. MC clubs include:

- African Student Union – to foster a culturally diverse environment and increase unity among all students of different cultures. This club will help students from different cultures associate with each other.
- Anthropology Club – to promote cultural appreciation of the present and past through the study of humankind or anthropology—from the Greek anthropos (“human”) and logia (“study”).
- Arabic Club – to introduce and discuss the Arabic Culture, language, and traditions to the MC community.
- Chinese Culture Club (CCC) – to gather people who are interested in Chinese culture and to conduct activities related to enhancing an understanding of Chinese culture and language.
- Desi Beats Club – to expose the rich Indian Culture. We are also going to acknowledge students about Desi music, dance and Indian festivals.
- Filipino International Club – to unite in promoting the Filipino culture; develop the potential of Filipino American youth as a community leaders and organizers; raise the awareness of the Filipino American community.
- French Club – to provide a meeting space for students learning or speaking French where they will practice their skills and discover different aspects of the culture all while having fun.
- Gamma Theta Upsilon/ Geography Club – to encourage student participation in geographical awareness and community service.
- Indie Film Club – to integrate students interested in independent and foreign cinema. Our goal is to disseminate culture through the screening of non-mainstream films. An optional discussion will follow every session.
- International Studies Club – to promote diversity at the College; create an informal and fun way to learn about different countries and their culture, history, politics, etc. Organize enriching and interesting events; meet new people and make friends.
- Korean Drum Club (Samul Nori) – to play and make exciting music called 'Samul Nori' with Korean traditional percussion instruments such as Janggu, Buk, and Jing. Samul Nori club also expects members and audience to experience Korean culture as we perform.
- Latino Student Union – to share and promote an interest in the history and culture of Latin America through various cultural, charitable, and social events and activities aimed at students and the MC community at large.
- Multicultural Business Association (MBA) – to promote and raise awareness of the ever changing global economic system.
- Multicultural Student Union – to foster an energetic, peaceful & safe environment where students from different cultures, ethnicities, nationalities and religions can interact and learn about each other promoting appreciation to self and others.
- Spanish Club – to promote a fun and engaging environment for Spanish learners and speaker of all levels through awesome activities.
- The Persian Club – to promote cultural diversity and understanding of the Persian culture, customs, and tradition.
- UNICEF Club – to learn more about the mission and goals of UNICEF while also spreading awareness about what UNICEF does for the global community. On campus, we organize events to essentially help poor children in other countries.



Celebrating Students

The Paul Peck Humanities Institute (PPHI) placed six students in internships for the spring semester. Four students are with the Library of Congress: *Natalie Berry*, *Nicolle Gamez*, *David Jacobson*, and *Erica Snow*; and another two are at the Smithsonian Institution: *Francine Caldeira* and *Corinee Wilhelm-Glab*. PPHI Internship Coordinator Professor Kelly Rudin organized student information sessions at all three campuses to recruit students for this unique academic internship program for the summer session.

In a collegewide initiative, *School of Art and Design (SA+D)* students have partnered with Rockville Art Department Professors Tendai Johnson and Michael Farrell to create a Communication Arts Technologies Department photography faculty exhibition catalog for the Sarah Silberman Art Gallery. SA+D students are designing a professionally-printed 36-page catalog of images for *CONFLUENCE: The Figure and Contemporary Thought*. Many of the students also will be travelling to Philadelphia in March to visit the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and the University of the Arts at their invitation. The SA+D students will be meeting with faculty and students at these two premier transfer institutions.

Art Department student Teddie Rappaport had two mezzotints (produced in Professor John Carr's classes) accepted into a juried show at the Washington Printmakers Gallery. The show, titled *Excellence in Printmaking*, ran from February 1–27.

SA+D graphic design students in Professor Andrea Adams' Typography II class are working in partnership with the Takoma Park/Silver Spring English Department and the Friends of the Takoma Park of Maryland Libraries (FTPML) on a series of poetry poster designs. The posters will be printed, framed, and presented in downtown Takoma Park for a poetry walk. Additionally, the Takoma Park/Silver Spring English Department will be working with FTPML and SA+D on a poetry reading and exhibition of the posters sometime in April in the Cafritz Foundation Arts Center lecture hall and display bays/hallway gallery spaces.

Students enrolled in Professor Cindy Pfanstiehl's HP 260 course, Field Archaeology in Montgomery County, are working on developing a predictive model for locating prehistoric archaeological sites in Little Bennett Regional Park. Students are getting hands-on technical experience and support from Montgomery County Department of Parks' archaeologists collaborating on the project. Students visited the Maryland Historical Trust to conduct background research and are synthesizing four different predictive models to come up with a set of environmental predictors or variables for potential site locations. The hydrology, topographic contours, and soil layers are being configured with the help of a GIS technician. Once the variables are incorporated, the maps will define high, moderate, and low potential areas within the park. Students will test the predictive model when they conduct an archaeological survey in April.

MC athletics at the Rockville Campus is the current leader for the President Cup, which is awarded to the Maryland junior college that has the highest ranking for all sports at the end of the spring semester.

Celebrating College Faculty, Staff, and Administrators

The 2010 Smithsonian Faculty Fellows celebrated the end of their fellowship year at a Showcase event on February 11. These 11 fellows presented their final reports on their Smithsonian projects and course implementations, and enjoyed a potluck dinner with their audience. The 2010 faculty fellows from Rockville were: *Andrea Brown*, psychology; *Sara Ducey*, hospitality management; *Takiko Mori-Saunders*, sociology; *Alonzo Smith*, history; and *Alicia Sanderman*, AELP. Germantown Campus faculty were *Ada Garcia-Casellas*, counseling; *Kateema Lee*, adj. English; and *Cathryn Carroll*, adj. English. Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus faculty were *Sadi Sahbazian*, AELP; *Karl Smith*, history; and *Nancy Hill*, mathematics.



Economics Professor Bruce Madariaga has been selected to serve on a committee of 20 leading economic educators from universities and community colleges around the country to promote innovative economic education at community colleges. Professor Madariaga was selected for this honor based on his book, *Economics for Life: 101 Lessons You Can Use Every Day*, now in its third edition, and presentations he made at various economic education conferences that promoted innovative teaching methods. The first phase of the project will be a workshop in Palo Alto, CA (Stanford University), May 31 to June 1, to plan national outreach programs for community college economics instructors during 2011 – 2012. The project is funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

As chair of the Chief Student Affairs Officers of Community Colleges in the state of Maryland, *Dr. Karen Roseberry, dean of student development*, is working with her affinity group to develop a survey of best practices of completion agenda initiatives within Maryland community colleges. The survey and resulting report is a follow-up to the completion agenda statewide conference held in December 2010.

Dr. Roseberry, working with *Krista Walker, director of the Center for Professional and Organizational Development*, coordinated a two-day training program entitled, "Mental Health First Aid," provided by the Mental Health Association of Montgomery County. The training enhanced counselors' ability to identify students who have mental health issues and to give them the wherewithal to refer students for thorough mental health assessment and treatment. The Germantown counselors attended the training February 10 and 11. Counselors at other campuses will have the opportunity to be trained this spring.

English Department Adjunct Charles Jenson received a Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Memorial Poetry Prize of \$2500 for three poems. The awards are given out annually to a number of poets for poems that celebrate the "spirit of life."

Currently on a Fulbright Grant in Finland, Visual Arts Department adjunct and former instructional aide *Christian Benefiel* is the recipient of the \$6,000 Individual Artist Award (IAA) granted by the Maryland State Arts Council. Governor O'Malley said, "The awards are an incentive for artists to continue to work in Maryland and contribute to our economy and job base, while enhancing the quality of life for all Maryland citizens."

Dr. Corey Newman, chemistry professor, was featured in the DELT (Distance Education and Learning Technologies) Teaching Tips with Technology for his article, "Tweet Tweet Tweet: the Sound that may Lead to an A." Dr. Newman was also invited by them to give a presentation "Twitter: Smarter Students – Is 140 Characters Enough?"

Visual Arts Department's *Billy Colbert*, adjunct professor recently completed a major mural project, The Anacostia Gateway Mural, which signals the beginning of critical mass in the redevelopment of Historic Anacostia. The new mural serves as the gateway to Historic Anacostia, depicting the history of the area and combining the unique stories of the diverse individuals within this vibrant East of the River community.

An exhibition of paintings by *Visual Arts Department Michal Hunter*, adjunct professor, was held at The Arts Club of Washington on 'I' Street through the month of February.

Visual Arts Department Adjunct Member J.J. McCracken's sculptures were the subject of an extensive and very complimentary review by Kriston Capps in *The Washington Post* on January 30. Her work is being exhibited in "Climate, Control" at Civilian Art Projects in Washington, D.C. Ms Capps writes, "It's been clear for some time that J.J. McCracken ranks among the smartest artists in Washington. Historically grounded and conceptually rigorous, she continues to push the boundaries within the ceramic arts...Her sculpture ... once again meets the high bar she has set for herself: the District's best political artist."

Dr. Mary Kay Abbey, mathematics professor, is co-chairing the grant proposal review for Tensor Grants awarded by the Mathematical Association of America (MAA). These are grants given for summer activities to promote continued interest and involvement in math and other STEM careers for female students.



Philosophy Adjunct *Tom Morris* was recently notified that his paper on Plato was accepted by the journal *History of Political Thought*. Last month he had another paper accepted by the journal *Existensia*.

Jim Walters, director of student life for the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus, presented the findings of two years of work addressing the issue of unplanned pregnancy as experienced by community college students at the *Achieving the Dream* national conference in Indianapolis. Also presenting were Dr. Mary Ellen Duncan, president emeriti of Howard Community College, and Andrea Kane, senior director of policy, National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. The presentation explored the multi-dimensional approach developed over the last two years under Walters' management of a \$100,000 grant. Walters addressed the methods used to effectively incorporate the pregnancy/choice issue within disciplines and their associated learning outcomes. Approximately 30 faculty participated in the work collegewide, representing a comprehensive number of disciplines. The models will be shared by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy through new subgrant administered by the American Association of Community Colleges to address retention and completion needs of community colleges nationwide.

Distance educators *Tammy Peery*, English department chair from Germantown, and *Samantha Veneruso*, English department chair from Rockville, conducted a live online seminar for Faculty Focus entitled, "How to Balance Online Learner Needs and Instructor Workload." The seminar focused on strategies for online instructors to keep their workloads reasonable but to still engage students and create an online community.

The Office of Distance Education and Learning Technologies began training distance education faculty on the transition to Blackboard from WebCT. The rollout of the College's new course management system is scheduled for the fall 2011 semester.

Counseling faculty have partnered with *faculty in the Math Department* as part of the Early Alert Program, a retention program designed to improve students' performance. The goal is to teach students ways to successfully navigate through college and to cope with both personal and academic challenges. The program at Germantown is a collaboration between counselors and Math 090/091 instructors, since instructional faculty are often the "first line" in awareness of potential student problems. Together, counselors and instructors provide proactive, supportive, and involved ways to reach students who are struggling. Counselors provide additional support and intervention outside of the classroom. Through these efforts, Early Alert aims to reach out to students to help them identify and clarify issues affecting academic performance, to help link them to internal and external resources, and to help students create attainable goals and understand how to achieve those goals.

Congratulations to *Nancy Newton*, special project/citizenship program director for the Adult ESOL & Literacy – GED Program, who recently completed her master's degree in Adult Education with a 4.0 grade point average.

Welcome to *Kimberly Brown*, our new instructional services director for the Targeted Assistance Program at the Refugee Center. Kim comes to us from the University of Maryland College Park where she was a lecturer in ESL and student services coordinator for the Maryland English Institute.

Congratulations to *English Department Professor Shweta Sen* who won first prize at the 2010 F. Scott Fitzgerald Short Story Contest sponsored by Montgomery College and Potomac Review.

Dr. Kamala Edwards of the English Department had the honor of being recently named for listing in the Marquis's *Who's Who of American Women, 2011*. Dr. Edwards also served as national co-chair of the US-India: People-To-People Conference held at the US Department of State on October 28, 2010. Montgomery College was featured in the education panel, moderated by Assistant Secretary Ann Stock of the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs.



On January 20, *Dr. Gina Wesley-Hunt* was an invited speaker at New York's Natural History Museum (the American Museum of Natural History). Her talk, titled *A Story from the Leaking Pipeline: Motherhood and a Career in Research Science*, was organized by the museum's Natural History's Association for Women in Science.

Art Professor Komelia Okim gave a lecture at the Curator's Gallery Talk of the exhibition, *Fused Identity: 5 Contemporary Asian Artists*, at VisArts in Rockville Town Center. The reception was held on January 29 in celebration of the lunar New Year. The exhibition ran from January 12 – February 20. Professor Okim curated an exhibition, *Blossoming Spring*, at MK Gallery in McLean, Virginia. The show features 11 Korean-American female artists and runs from March 5 – 26. A gallery talk is scheduled for March 5, at 5:30 p.m. Professor Okim also was appointed as one of the international advisors of the *7th Cheongju International Crafts Biennale Competition 2011*, which will be held in September in Korea.

A sculpture by *Art Professor Zdeno Mayercak* that is among the collection of the Museum Kampa in Prague was selected for *Art Project Google*, an online compilation of high-resolution images of artworks from galleries worldwide as well as a virtual tour of the galleries in which they are housed. The project was launched on February 1 by Google, and includes works in the Tate Gallery, London; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City; the Uffizi, Florence; and other museums.

A solo exhibition of works by *Art Professor Michael Sellmeyer* was held at MK Gallery in McLean, Virginia, from February 5–26. He gave an artist talk at the gallery on February 5. *Professor Sellmeyer* will judge an exhibition for the Montgomery Village Foundation Department of Recreation at the North Creek Community Center on March 4, and an exhibition for the Gaithersburg Fine Arts Association at the Kentlands Mansion on March 28.

On February 12, Applied Geography Professor *Tanya Allison* hosted the 38th Annual CaGIS Map Design competition at Montgomery College that was open to professionals and students. Allison was one of five judges for the competition, which was supported by the National Geographic Society. The student categories included monetary awards. Entries were received from all over the country. Winners will be exhibited at the upcoming Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) conference in San Diego this July.

On February 28, *Dr. Swift Dickison of the English Department* presented a discussion of Asha Lovelace's film, *Joebell and America*, as part of the African American History Month program. Ms. Lovelace, whom Dr. Dickison met in Trinidad, directed the film based on her father, Earl's, short story of the same title. Dr. Dickison also presented a paper on the work of Merle Hodge, perhaps the first well-known woman writer of the Caribbean, with the exception of Jean Rhys. His paper was on Hodge's novel, *For the Life of Laetitia*. He also presented in Port of Spain, Trinidad in November for the 11th Annual International Conference on Caribbean Literature.

On March 8, *Professor Sean Fay* visited Springbrook High School under the College's *Ask an Officer* program to talk with students from Montgomery County Public Schools about careers in criminal justice.

Dr. Andrea Brown, Genevieve Carminati, and Dr. Deborah Stearns, will participate on a panel discussion entitled *Sexual Identities: Complex, Contextual, and Fluid* at an upcoming conference on March 12 at Morgan State University on *Intersections: Sexuality, Gender, Race, and Ethnicity*.

Dr. Brown and Dr. Stearns also will be part of a panel discussion entitled *Multiplicity: Toward a New Vision of Identities* at the upcoming annual Mid-Atlantic Women's Studies Association conference on *Feminism in Hard Times: Challenges and Opportunities* on April 8-9 at the College of New Jersey.

On April 8–9, a panel from Montgomery College will present *We Are the Praxis: Challenges and Opportunities in Community College Women's Studies Programs* at the 2011 Mid-Atlantic Women's Studies Association Conference being held at the College of New Jersey. Professors Carminati and Dr. Stearns will join *Tulin Levitas, philosophy and*



women's studies, *Effie Siegel, English and women's studies*, and former MC student *Anu Ahuja*, a recent MA graduate from Clarke University.

Adjunct Art Professor *Barbara Allen* received an Individual Artist Award from the Maryland State Arts Council in Visual Arts for her sculpture.

Adjunct Art History Professor *Julia Langley* has been invited to become an adjunct teacher in the Education Department of the National Gallery of Art for *Art Around the Corner*. The program brings fourth and fifth graders to the National Gallery up to 14 times over two years to experience original works of art and make personal and interdisciplinary connections with them.

English Department Professor *Dr. Stanley Niamatali's* poems will be published in *The Caribbean Writer and Anthology of Appalachian Writers*, Bobbie Ann Mason Volume.

Speakers and Events

February Events

Debi Higbie-Holmes, director of student life at the Germantown Campus, coordinated the Collegewide Student Leadership Conference, which was held on February 4. The conference featured Joe Urbanski from Collegiate EmPowerment. Mr. Urbanski held the attention of participating students for four hours, engaging them in interactive exercises. Feedback from students confirmed the success of the marketed intent, "Students will leave this high energy, interactive event with profoundly powerful concepts and tools (and some cool ideas) that they can bring back to their campus community."

The Faculty Outreach Librarian on the Germantown Campus, Diane Cockrell, conducted a CTL workshop on February 8 entitled, "What the Library Can Do for You!!" Her workshop showcased the library's resources and services. Currently, the Library is marketing some new additions to its collection including newly acquired books and Playaways. The Librarians are continuously working on Research Subject Guides which aid students in their research.

Kris Borcharding, student life specialist, coordinated the Service Learning and Volunteer Fair held February 9 at the Germantown Campus. More than 20 nonprofit organizations had representatives on hand to share information about their mission and services available in Montgomery County. The fair presented opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to identify great places to volunteer.

On February 18, The Paul Peck Institute for American Culture and Civic Engagement welcomed to campus Hon. Hans Riemer, newly elected Montgomery County councilmember-at-large, as the second speaker in its new student-oriented series, Profiles in Public Life. Speaking on the subject "*Making a Difference: Working in Nonprofits and Political Campaigns*," Riemer shared his thoughts on working for social change. He drew on his experience at the County Council and his previous work for the Obama campaign, Rock the Vote, and AARP as he engaged a standing-room-only crowd of students, faculty, and staff.

Mr. Joseph Giove, III, U.S. Department of Energy, was the guest lecturer at the February 22 Spectrum Lecture series held in Globe Hall, Germantown Campus. His lecture, "Carbon Capture and Storage: One Approach to Address Climate Change," explored the process and science of carbon capture and storage as a possible solution for greenhouse gas mitigation. Mr. Giove is the senior program manager for the Department of Energy's Division of Carbon Capture and Storage Demonstrations within the Office of Fossil Energy. He holds a bachelor of science degree from Lee University and a master of science degree from the University of Maryland University College.



Mr. Giove also attended Montgomery College from 1991–1993 and was the 1992–1993 Montgomery College-Rockville Male Athlete of the Year.

Sisters in Cinema, a film on African American women filmmakers, their achievements, and challenges was shown on February 22 as part of Black/African American History Month programs. Dr. Andrea Brown of the Psychology Department and Professor Genevieve Carminati of the English Department and Collegewide Women's Studies Program led a stimulating discussion following the film.

On February 25, the Counseling Department's the Gathering Program and the Latino Student Union hosted a screening of the film *Papers*, a documentary addressing the concerns of undocumented youth in the United States.

March Events

On March 1, in recognition of Black History Month and Women's History Month, Professor Leigh Fought gave a talk about her research on Anna Murray Douglass, Frederick Douglass's first wife. She delivered a similar speech at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, N.Y., where they taped her presentation for their library. Sara Eagin, collections associate and curator at the Belmont-Sewell House & Museum, was on campus to speak about women's suffrage and the collections that they have at the museum and the Takoma Park/Silver Spring women's studies program invited Marge Piercy, poet and author, to the campus to speak on her novel *Sex Wars: A Novel of the Turbulent Post-Civil War Era*.

The Criminal Justice Department hosted guest speaker Pat Brown on March 1. Brown talked to an audience of students and faculty about her career as a criminal profiler, author, and television commentator.

Confluence, the Figure and Contemporary Thought opened at the Sarah Silberman Art Gallery on March 8. The exhibition, organized by Art Department Professors Tendai Johnson and Michael Farrell, explores figure in contemporary art, and features artists from Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, and Detroit. The artists are Renee Stout, Zoe Charlton, Tina Newberry, Christy Singleton, and Chido Johnson. In conjunction with the exhibition, there will be an artist panel discussion on Friday, April 1, along with a closing reception open to the college and the public. The exhibition will feature a catalog including artist biographies, images of their work, and an introductory essay written by Janell Blackmon of Howard University. The catalog is funded by the Arts Institute, and will be a collaborative production featuring two other departments. It will be designed by students at the School of Art and Design and will feature photography by Professor John Goell and his students at the Communication Arts and Technology Department in Rockville.

The Annual Women's Studies Program Scholarship Breakfast was held on March 9, from 8–9:30 a.m., in the Theatre Arts Arena. College President Dr. DeRionne Pollard was the guest speaker. The 2011 student scholarships were awarded to recipients from the three campuses. Additional 2011 honorees included the *On Her Shoulders We Stand* award recipients, Ms. Nancy Nyland, Germantown Library; Dr. Deborah Stearns, Rockville Psychology Department; and Dr. Deborah Taylor, Takoma Park/Silver Spring English Department. Professor Kateema Lee, Germantown English Department, and Cave Canem, fellowship recipient, read original poems. There was a silent auction and all proceeds supported the Women's Studies Program Scholarship Fund.

On March 9, Anthropologist Jean Hunleth spoke in Gudelsky 224 at noon on her research in Zambia about how children, ages 8 to 12, have become caregivers to sick parents and other relatives, particularly those with TB or HIV.

On March 31, from 12:30–1:45 p.m., in HU 009, Dr. Michelle R. Scott from Morgan State University will discuss her book *Blues Empress in Black Chattanooga: Bessie Smith and the Emerging Urban South*. This program is co-sponsored by the Women's Studies Program and the Rockville History Department.



April Events

The Student Senate will host MC's Got Talent, a show of student performers on April 1 at 6 p.m. in the Theatre Arts Arena. The event is a fundraiser to support MC student scholarships.

The twelfth annual Diabetes University at Montgomery College will be hosted by the Hospitality Management Department on April 2, from 9 a.m.–noon in the Theatre Arts Arena. This is a free educational program for those with diabetes, their families, caregivers, and educators and is offered in collaboration with the Diabetes Action Research and Education Foundation.

On April 20, the Criminal Justice Department will host a Careers in Criminal Justice Day in the small gymnasium on the Rockville Campus. Several local, state, and federal criminal justice agencies have been invited to participate.

External Support and Recognition

Workforce Development & Continuing Education, Developmental Education has received the HSC Foundation's LEAP Award in the amount of \$11,000 to provide tuition, fees, and book assistance to needy students with developmental disabilities. The HSC Foundation is dedicated to improving access to services for individuals who face social and health care barriers due to disability, chronic illness, or other circumstances that present unique needs.