

INTERSECTIONS

THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS CHRONICLES

Message from Dr. Rai

There have been many occasions this year that reminded me of the extraordinary commitment and talent of the faculty, staff, and administrators that comprise the Academic Affairs division. Together we have made extraordinary strides to set the College's academics on a course that will strengthen our reputation as a higher education leader around the globe.



Congratulations to Professor Greg Wahl, 2014 Maryland Professor of the Year!

I have always been proud to work alongside such remarkable colleagues, first as dean and then as vice president/provost prior to my current interim role, and this semester has illustrated perfectly everything that we can achieve when we work collaboratively to serve our students. I am pleased by the relationships we have fostered both across our division and with the other areas of the College.

When we are faced with so many administrative and process-driven issues to address, it can be difficult to retain and advance our true mission. In these past several months, we completed the restructuring plan and began planning for implementation, faculty engaged in reviewing and revising general education and general studies, we finalized a plan to close the College's achievement gap along with our colleagues in student services, and we continued developing and implementing efforts to meet CCRCC Act requirements. This is a hefty workload on its own, but that much more impressive when we acknowledge that it was accomplished while keeping our students' academic progress at the top of our list of priorities.

Not to be outdone, students have had a banner year at the College. The guidance and support you gave them every day led to some amazing accomplishments—from success at national and international competitions, to scholarships, to the continued successes of our alums—our students are showing us what they can do when we do our jobs right. You will read about

some of the specific success stories in the followings pages. I hope they make you as proud as they make me!

You also may have noticed this year that we set into motion a renewed focus on student pathways to success. Never has the College's partnership with the Montgomery County Public School System been stronger in our efforts to shepherd high school graduates to college—we will soon start as early as kindergarten in getting students to think about college as a viable option for their futures.

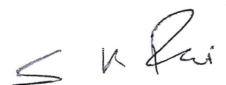
And once students are here, we have ever-expanding articulation agreements to help them move onto the next phase of their education. Our goal is to think of a student's entire lifespan to create a roadmap to academic success, and the results are already impressive.

The year ahead looks bright. We will welcome many of our colleagues into new roles when department chairs begin their

tenure in July. We will also celebrate the opening of the newly renovated Rockville Science East as well as the Bioscience Education Center and Holy Cross Germantown Hospital on the Germantown Campus.

I invite you to use this new monthly publication, *Intersections*, as a way to share and chronicle the exciting happenings within your area of Academic Affairs. Two of our faculty members were instrumental in its design. Thank you to professors Martha Vaughan and Katie Hubley for lending their expertise to the project.

I offer you my deepest thanks for the extra efforts you put forth this year. The College may never see again a period of time so rife with transition, and your contributions will be part of the next stage in the life of Montgomery College. Have a terrific summer!



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Students Thrive with the Help of MC Faculty and Staff



In April, students in MC's Rockville **Communication Arts Technologies** department had a chance to show their works in graphic design and illustration in a student exhibition. Guided by their professors, students learn the skills necessary to seek careers in creative fields like web design, animation, and illustration.

Says department faculty member Martha Vaughan, "It's exciting to watch as the students combine their technical and creative skills to discover unique solutions to visual communication problems."

Student Nick Vasiliou had a piece featured in the show. As Nick prepares to graduate next week, he has some nerves about what happens after receiving his diploma, saying he is "excited that I'm moving on from school, but I'm also wondering what that light at the end of the tunnel is going to be."

Nick credits Professor Vaughan with helping him translate ideas into designs. "Professor Vaughan definitely helped me just kind of take the stuff that's in my head and get it on paper and have it be an effective image."

Congratulations!

MC students made us proud as they were lauded with elite awards. Two of the three 2014 Jack Kent Cooke Foundation scholarship winners from Maryland were MC students: Grace Le, who has been accepted into Georgia Tech, and Trinh Nguyen, who has been accepted into MIT. S-STEM Scholar Kaveh Karbasi was accepted into eight top schools and chose to attend UC Berkeley to study bioengineering. And Yi Liu was selected as this year's UMBC Presidential Scholarship Awardee, just to name a few. Wow!

Top: Illustration by Emily Moon, GDES 216, Illustrator for Vector Graphics

Bottom Left: Professor Martha Vaughan works with student Nick Vasiliou on a piece that was featured in April's student exhibition. Photo by Jon Goell.

Bottom Right: Student Nick Vasiliou's GDES 134, Illustration I, Narrative Illustration.



May 2014



MC's Office of Articulation and Transfer makes it easy for MC students to transfer into four-year programs. They have added a remarkable number of new agreements this year. Here are just a few highlights:

- Guaranteed admission agreement with American University
- 20 percent tuition reduction for MC graduates transferring to Stevenson University, School of Graduate and Professional Studies programs
- AA in communication studies to a BA in journalism from West Virginia University
- AAS in biotechnology to a BS in biology from Washington Adventist University
- AAS in criminal justice to a BA in criminal justice, social justice concentration from Bowie State
- AA in computer science to a BS in computer science from UMBC
- Guaranteed admission for nursing graduates transferring to George Washington University, Virginia Science and Technology Campus
- AS in engineering to a BS in engineering from Syracuse University

Details about these and many more agreements can be viewed online at www.montgomerycollege.edu/agreements

In addition, the Articulation website, www.montgomerycollege.edu/transfer, has grown considerably since its launch in July 2013. There are now major-specific pages dedicated to the articulation agreements for the College's most popular majors to identify potential pathways for their educational future.

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A Focus on STEM Transfer Student Success

By Richard D. Scott

The STEM Transfer Student Success Initiative (t-STEM) is an inter-institutional collaboration between the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) and partner two-year institutions, including Anne Arundel Community College (AACC), The Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC), Howard Community College (HCC), and Montgomery College (MC).

The purpose of this initiative is to support the successful transition of STEM students who transfer from these partner institutions to UMBC, and to create a national model for collaboration between two-year and four-year institutions.

One of the programs created by the initiative is the Peer Alumni from Community Colleges (PACC) Program. The PACC Program is a peer network that connects prospective STEM transfer students from AACC,

CCBC, HCC, and MC with current UMBC STEM students who have transferred from these partner institutions.

The UMBC students, called PACC Leaders, help to create peer-to-peer programs and events across institutions that support successful transition and promote active engagement.

Kwame Doh is one of the inaugural t-STEM PACC Leaders. He is a MC alumnus ('12) with an AS in life sciences who is preparing to graduate from UMBC this spring with a BS in biochemistry and molecular biology. His goal is to attend medical school.

He reflects, "Starting at Montgomery College helped me to do better at UMBC."

The other member of the PACC Leader team is Meg Yirefu. She also transferred from MC, and is currently a sophomore at UMBC with a major in biochemistry and a minor in sociology. They have both expressed that being

a PACC Leader is a positive experience for them.

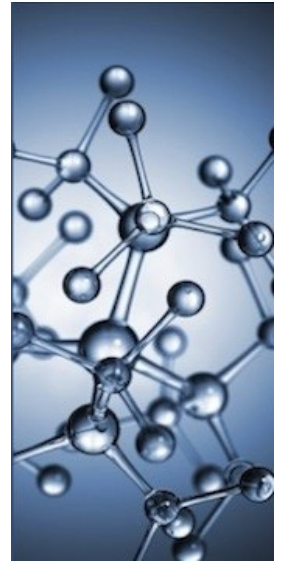
These PACC Leaders come to campus to share their experiences about transfer from MC to UMBC, and to help provide resources about the transfer process.

This semester, Kwame and Meg also helped to organize a panel discussion and social hour held on the Germantown Campus in conjunction with the Miss America lecture on women in STEM.

Most recently, they helped to produce the "STEM Club Transfer Jeopardy Challenge" at the Rockville Campus. They utilized the Jeopardy-game-show format to present more than 40 essential transfer facts in an enjoyable half-hour.

In these ways, the PACC Leaders helped to foster important peer connections, and also gained personal experience in event programming.

The STEM Transfer Student



Success Initiative is funded through a grant to UMBC from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

If you have questions about the Initiative or the PACC program at MC, please contact me at richard.scott@montgomerycollege.edu. As the Montgomery College t-STEM Program Manager, I look forward to providing periodic updates on the work of the Initiative.

Resources and tools for STEM transfer are currently available on the initiative's website at stemtransfer.org.



STEM Transfer Student Success Initiative

AACC • CCBC • HCC • MC • UMBC

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New Nursing Curriculum Begins this Summer

Dianna Matthews, chair of the nursing program in the Health Sciences department at Takoma Park/Silver Spring, sat down with us to talk about the upcoming changes in the program.

up to match any specialty (i.e. labor and delivery, pediatrics, etc.). This gives our students hands on, practical experience. A group of students can be in the simulation room and the session can be streamed to the classroom for observation and evaluation.

The simulations are set up to mirror a real hospital setting. Most include students acting as a primary nurse, an assist, and a family member, with a faculty member playing the part of a doctor. Student nurses are asked to give SBAR—situation, background, assessment, recommendation—communication to the doctor. This is an organized method of reporting that nurses give routinely to doctors and other nurses.

other nursing curriculums. We appointed a facilitator for each semester of the program to guide putting concepts and objectives in place.

Once the proposal was approved by the committee, we brought it to the full faculty for a vote and then sent it to the collegewide curriculum committee. The full process took several years to complete.

How many students are in the nursing program?

We have experienced quite a bit of growth in recent years, driven by the growing need for nurses, especially by Holy Cross Hospital. We currently have close to 380 students, and admit 90-120 new students each semester (we allow fall and spring admission).

How does the new curriculum better prepare students to join the workforce?

We addressed some

dissatisfaction with the fourth semester of the program by adding a comprehensive medical/surgical course. This is a key component that prepares students for the transition to RN (registered nurse) status. Adding the medical/surgical course in the final semester is important because it aligns their studies with where new nurses typically begin their careers.

Does the new curriculum partner with other disciplines in the College and/or with the new Holy Cross GT Hospital?

We have a longstanding relationship with Holy Cross Hospital. The new hospital in Germantown is expected to increase the number of new clinical options that we can offer our students. We may have new clinical units set up as early as spring 2015.



What brought about the curriculum change? What are the major elements that are changing?

A primary goal in making the curriculum changes was to better align the program with the Healthcare 2020 initiative. We wanted to provide more focus on patient safety and evidence-based practices. We also wanted to transition from seven-week theory classes to 15-week classes where possible.

The main principle of the new curriculum is to bring about more active learning—turning classroom lessons into engaged applications. For instance, we use our simulation lab that looks like an ICU; it can be set

What process was followed to make the change?

We first submitted the proposal to the nursing program curriculum committee. The review included an analysis of

