

INTERSECTIONS

THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS CHRONICLES

Message from Dr. Rai

Happy Commencement Day! This is truly the best “work” day of the year for anyone who commits their professional lives to education. Looking out at the gathering of smiling students and their proud families, I feel inspired by their achievements and re-energized to do more to help the students that follow them get to this day.

our faculty and staff are the reason Montgomery College students graduate with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in the local workforce and in continued educational pursuits.

I want to thank the many faculty and staff members in Academic Affairs who attended budget hearings, wrote letters, and phoned our council representatives to implore them to support the College’s budget request. You were heard!

Now that we have shepherded another class of students to Commencement, I want to give you a sense of what lies in the months ahead.

First, I hope each of you takes time this summer to decompress and do whatever it is that brings you joy outside of the College. I am excited to spend time with my daughter, travel a bit, and regroup from all the good work we accomplished together this past year.

At the same time, there will be

plenty of activity over the summer months. Most notably, the College’s first Part-time Faculty Institute and campus centers will open, both physically and virtually. That means that these faculty members will be greeted in the fall by a welcoming environment designed to offer the resources and support they need.

Also this summer we will be making preparations to kick off the academic master planning process in the fall. You will have many opportunities to participate, and I am confident that the conversations we have will help form a shared vision for MC academics.

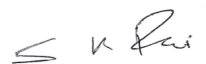
The timing for those discussions is prime, as we come off of a year of major academic accomplishments. I am very impressed and grateful that so many members of the division contributed to the curriculum improvements that occurred

this year.

General education, general studies, online degrees, developmental education, and revising programs to meet the state’s new 60-credit requirements—all of these curricular matters took an enormous amount of time. As this work continues in the fall, we will stay focused on making our academic offerings relevant and responsive.

In the pages that follow, you will read about some of our amazing students. You will see quickly that our graduates are about to launch into the stratosphere. How lucky we are to have been part of their journey.

As always, and especially on this most joyful graduation day, thank you for your commitment to MC and to our students.



MC’s newest graduates. 2015 Commencement

And we are well-positioned to do that. Yesterday the Montgomery County Council voted unanimously to fund compensation and other initiative requests. They had difficult choices to make, and many competing priorities for funding, and they chose to support our mission of providing quality education to anyone who chooses us.

They know what we know—that

INSIDE

- Student Successes
- General Education
- Students Making a Difference
- External Relationships that Serve Teaching and Learning

INTERSECTIONS

THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS CHRONICLES

MC Students Take Flight

Montgomery College is many things to many people. One of our distinctions is that we are the academic home to 60,000 students, each of them bringing their own blend of talent, intelligence, resilience, fortitude, and heart.

As we celebrate their graduation and thrill over where they will triumph next, here are just a few of their stand-out achievements.

Daniel Albuquerque and **Fidelis Millitante** are the winners of 2015 Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarships. These scholarships are highly competitive, with university and college students from all over the country vying for selection.

Mason Rockwell Buran was selected as a USA Today All-USA Community College Academic Team member and a Coca-Cola New Century Scholar.

Sahar Naghibi Khamnei was selected as a Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Silver Scholar. Sahar was also recognized with the 2015 John and Edyth Portz Award for Outstanding Honors Student at a Two-Year College. This is the second consecutive year this award has been won by a student in the Montgomery Scholars Program.

Rene Pedraza is the second Montgomery College student to be awarded a Critical Language Scholarship, selected from a pool of over 5,000 applicants. Rene is a Renaissance Scholar at the Germantown Campus, student blogger, and All-USA Academic Team nominee from the Beta

Kappa Omega Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. He will be studying Urdu in Lucknow, India this summer.

Marvin Mata joins only seven other Maryland students in being named a 2015 Newman Civic Fellow. The Newman Civic Fellows Award honors "inspiring college student leaders who have demonstrated an investment in finding solutions for challenges facing communities throughout the country."

Lynette Thornton—a Katrina refugee who landed in Maryland with her son after losing all of her belongings to the storm—graduates today with a degree in nursing. She began, slowly, at Montgomery College, determined to eventually return home a more productive citizen to help strengthen her beloved city. After a year at Holy Cross, she plans to return home to be a nurse in one of the city's two hospitals.

Catherine Baker was selected as the 2015 Presidential Scholar for the Germantown Campus. A member of Phi Theta Kappa and a Renaissance Scholar, Catherine was also awarded a Paul Peck Humanities Scholarship for a competitive internship at the Library of Congress.

Tatyana Kiryutina was selected as the 2015 Presidential Scholar for the Rockville Campus. Also receiving the Florence Muriel Ashby Outstanding Mathematics Student Award, Tatyana was an ON RAMP to STEM scholar, NIST-SURF intern, math tutor, student learning assistant for the MC Math Club, president of MC's Engineers Without

Borders, and member of Phi Theta Kappa.

Tatiana Sandoval was selected as the 2015 Presidential Scholar for the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. A Renaissance Scholar and member of Phi Theta Kappa, Tatiana is also the recipient of a Dr. Harry Harden, Jr. Student Academic Excellence Award.

MC Students Making a Difference

Montgomery College students came together to start a unique book project, which encourages students to use entrepreneurial skills to improve local and global communities.

With the help of Enactus, the team published a book of Ukrainian stories translated into English, and had children in the country's orphanages draw pictures to the book.

The project is called "Annie's Children". They are selling the book in the U.S. and use the proceeds to help children in the orphanages. So far, more than \$2,000 has been raised.

Proceeds have purchased shoes, clothes, and supplies for the children, and sponsored psychology trainings for college students in Ukraine, who will go on to volunteer in the orphanages.

<http://annieschildren.org/>



General Education Transformation is Well Underway at MC

After more than a year of diligent work by Montgomery College faculty, earlier this month **359** full-time faculty members voted on a series of model options for the restructuring of the College's General Education offerings. This number represents **61 percent** of the full-time faculty who were eligible to vote.

The General Education Transform and Restructure Committee (GETRC), led by professors Tammy Peery and Michael Farrell, began its work in Spring 2014. In just 15 months, they developed several new models for general education that would come to a vote, using an iterative process of program creation workshops, model review sessions, and information sessions that allowed the models to develop as the committee did its work.

To inform their work, committee members attended many conferences -- many AAC&U conference and summer institutes, Middle States Accreditation annual meeting, AFACCT annual conference on Gen Ed.

The committee drew upon current and proposed COMAR requirements, best practices in general education as promoted by the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC & U), and revised Middle States standards for general education.

For each of the degrees awarded by Montgomery College, two versions of General Education were offered for consideration. None of the options requires speech, health, and an additional arts or humanities courses as institutional requirements. Instead, these are offered as choices that the student can make to best suit their program requirements and/or

transfer plans.

All options for all AA, AAT, and AS degrees included the basic Gen Ed requirements defined in COMAR:

- One mathematics foundation course
- One English foundation course
- Two behavioral and social science courses
- One arts course
- One humanities course
- Two science courses, one of which must include a lab

The three models that were ratified by faculty vote including:

- AA and AAT - 31 to 33 credit hours of Gen Ed (COMAR plus two institutional requirements)
- AS - 29 to 31 credit hours of Gen Ed (COMAR plus no institutional

requirements, and one Gen Ed elective)

- AAS - 20 to 22 credit hours (COMAR plus no institutional requirements, 4-6 credit of Gen Ed electives)

These models will each feature thematic pathways to offer students a coherent route through general education. Pathways include Global Awareness and Perspectives; Creativity, Exploration, and Discovery; Ethics and Social Responsibility; and The Human Condition.

The 2015-16 academic year will be a busy one as the newly-formed standing General Education Committee begin the intensive work of implementation.

The revised General Education program is expected to be fully implemented by the Fall 2018 semester.

Full details can be found at <http://libguides.montgomerycollege.edu/gened>

Chemistry Professor Takes Science to Recess

MC chemistry professor, Patricia Takahara, was featured in the media this month for sharing her love of chemistry with Maryland elementary school students.

Professor Takahara, who also serves as a volunteer science coach with the American Chemical Society,

runs a Chemistry Club once a month at Dayton Oaks Elementary School in Howard County, guiding young students as they experiment with household products and, as one student noted, "sometimes make slime and stuff."

Even more impressive than making slime, students actually skip recess to participate in the Chemistry Club. In the interview, Professor Takahara noted the impact teachers have on generating their students' interest in science, crediting two of her own high school teachers for setting on a path in chemistry.

The full feature can be found here: <http://www.wjla.com/articles/2015/05/harris-heroes-maryland-kids-give-up-recess-to-learn-science-113783.html>



INTERSECTIONS

THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS CHRONICLES

External Relationships that Serve Teaching and Learning

Throughout the academic year, we have highlighted the role that external partners play in the academic and professional experiences of MC students.

The College looks to public agencies, industry leaders and employers housed both locally and abroad, four-year colleges and universities, and private entities to offer students new opportunities and exposure.

Through these endeavors, the College has gained millions of dollars in grant funding, formal training and academic agreements, scholarship opportunities—giving us the ability to strengthen the county's workforce.

This is an important part of our work in Academic Affairs, and we continuously look

for partnering opportunities.

Grant-supported Initiatives

This academic year started strong when the College learned that our proposal to lead a statewide cyber security pathway program was awarded a \$15 million TAACCCT grant.

The year also kicked off by implementing the College's two programs funded by Maryland EARN grants—the MOVE transportation program and the BIOTrain program, which features strong partnerships with MedImmune and other Biotech companies to train workers in that field.

Several other grant proposals are currently under considerations.

The Workforce Development & Continuing Education

Unit has submitted a proposal to the American Apprenticeship Initiative (AAI) program to increase the IT capacity of employees

The STEM Unit has submitted two proposals to the National Science Foundation that could total more than \$1.5 million; one for an S-STEM grant that would provide scholarships to offer free engineering education at MC for all qualifying students; and another to partner with George Washington University on a two-week trip to Switzerland for a small group of faculty and staff.

Memoranda of Understanding

The College has entered into several new agreements this year with four-year institutions and employers .

We just recently finalized an agreement to create the Montgomery College Fellows Program at the Library of Congress. The program is a first of its kind that results in a cooperative agreement between MC Libraries, the Paul Peck Humanities Institute, and the Library of Congress.

We are in the process of creating a formal agreement with USG and UMBC that creates a combined Bachelor of Science degree in Translational Life Sciences, with the potential of offering all four years on MC's campus.

These agreements join the partnerships that were previously reported with Lockheed Martin, KeyGene, and O.P. Jindal Global University.

MCPS: our K-12 Partners

MC's Academic Affairs division works very closely with our public school system to encourage students to go to college and to ease the transition from high school to college.

The Office of Academic Initiatives leads several engagement program, in addition to the College's dual enrollment offerings. On of the newest programs will occur next week, when we welcome 200 local kindergartners and their families to the Germantown Campus to experience what college is all about. This follows a full year of Kindergarten to College program, which sent MC faculty and staff to kindergarten classrooms around the county.

Our faculty, deans, and chairs also work with MCPS to ensure that high school graduates are ready for the rigors of a college education.

A MC/MCPS Course Alignment work group has met throughout the semester to review alignment of key math courses, considering content and overlaps in each course.

Groups have been meeting locally and statewide to discuss high school -to-college transition courses that would serve as a bridge course during a student's senior year in high school.

These efforts and many more will continue into the next academic year.



Questions? Contact MCAcademics@montgomerycollege.edu