

Fall 2015

the magazine for montgomery college alumni and friends

insights

annual
erosion
rate

Sedimental Journey

wetland
restoration

sediment
delivery
ratio

hydrologic
river
routing



Pete Vidal

Scholarships Chair Carol Leahy '74 and Richard Beall '71, center, welcome awardees of Alumni Association scholarships at the Association's September board meeting.

Fellow alumni and friends,

Some truly remarkable people came through Montgomery College, achieved successes in their professional lives, and returned to pay that success forward to MC's next generation. Several of them were my predecessors on the Association's board, and I congratulate three of our past alumni presidents who have recently retired.

Esther Newman '75, who founded the county's premier leadership development organization, has called it a career after 26 years as executive director of Leadership Montgomery. Tookie Gentilcore '94 is hanging up her hat at Thomas F. Barrett, Inc. (a company named for another MC alum, by the way). And Lon Anderson '70, long known as the spokesman for AAA Mid-Atlantic, caught up with his campus newspaper's editorial staff at his retirement party this summer—look for their picture in this issue.

A fourth past president, Bob Hydorn '71, tried to retire but didn't get far. No sooner had Bob stepped down as vice president of Fitzgerald Auto Malls than Maryland's governor appointed him the first Alumni Association leader to serve on MC's Board of Trustees.

These local luminaries share something else: Their service to the College and their community earned each of them the Milton F. Clogg Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award. They're a snapshot of the quality that MC produces, and they've carried that level of quality to their colleagues, their peers, and the students who follow after them.

This magazine highlights some of those more recent students. Peat O'Neil '15 earned a geography degree during a successful travel writing career. Rachel Hoover '08 offers advice for parents of older students with autism. And Se Jong Cho '00 came to MC

planning to study art, until she met the amazing Dr. Don Day, who guided her to an engineering path that is culminating in a PhD project at Johns Hopkins.

Dr. Day himself is serving a new generation at MC, despite being officially retired. He returns regularly to advise engineering students, and I'm delighted that he has joined the Alumni Association's mentoring program as we provide added support to our students. Some of those students, drawn from our scholarship recipients, are pictured here with me.

It's doubly rewarding to know that our alumni support MC students both financially and professionally. I hope you'll consider joining in to offer what support you can—in either area. Please contact our office if you'd like to contribute your part to keeping MC's alumni top quality.

Richard E. Beall

Richard E. Beall '71
Montgomery College
Alumni Association President

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The Montgomery College Alumni Association welcomes former students interested in helping to coordinate events and activities for alumni, organize fundraising efforts, give input on distribution of Alumni Association scholarship funds, and determine benefits of Alumni Association membership. Opportunities to organize activities and events for alumni chapters, by area of study, are also available. **Montgomery College Alumni Office** 40 West Gude Drive, Suite 110, Rockville, MD 20850 **E-mail** alumni@montgomerycollege.edu **Online** montgomerycollege.edu/alumni **Facebook** facebook.com/mcalumniassociation

Fall 2015

insights

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Montgomery College is an academic institution committed to promoting equal opportunity and fostering diversity among its student body, faculty, and staff.

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An alumna engineer works to alleviate water-quality problems in the nation's breadbasket.

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Helping Students with Autism Find the Right Fit

Credit and noncredit programs support a growing higher-ed demographic.

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Rest at the Rock

Turning 50, alumna Peat O'Neil took the road less traveled through the Pyrenees Mountains.



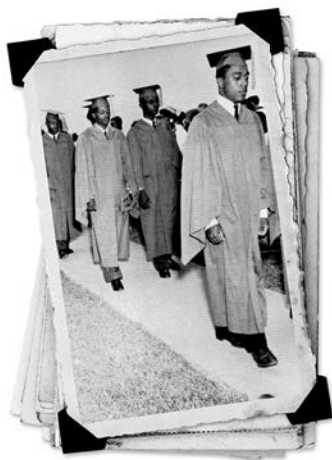
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About the Cover

Se Jong Cho was photographed outside Johns Hopkins University Homewood Campus in Baltimore, where she is completing a six-year PhD project in environmental engineering. Designer Clint Wu created the photo illustration; photography is by Pete Vidal.



I was delighted to see David M. Frey's "Carver Connection" story on Carver Junior College and his interview with Jean Johnson, Carver '53, in the spring 2015 issue.

The Carver building stands today, thanks to the efforts of many residents, including Ms. Nina Honemond Clarke, author of several books depicting black schools and churches in Montgomery County, and whose research became the foundation of the "Carver Building." The community also owes a debt to members who served on the Rockville Historic District Commission in 1993 and Montgomery College Task Force in 2002, prior to the historic designation of the Carver Building by the Historic District Commission in 2003. Readers also may be interested to know that the first six graduating students of George Washington Carver Junior College (Ms. Carolyn Awkard, Ms. Doris Gaynell Claggett, Ms. Elaine Virginia Copeland, Ms. Ellen Louise Nickens,

Ms. Lois Jean Prather, and—last but not least—Ms. Shirley Jean Johnson) may still be living in the area.

I hope the *Insights* article encourages more Carver Junior College alumni to share their memories of Montgomery College's original Rockville Campus and perhaps think about establishing a Carver alumni chapter.

Anita Neal Powell '79
Rockville, Md.



Glad to see MC students experiencing Cuba as it is... without cell phones or social media, seeing obvious apartheid first hand, sensing the I'm-not-free-to-roam atmosphere, as well as the music and the warmth of the Cuban people. "Destination Cuba" [online version].

Now I would implore the professor to explore Cuba prior to the revolution... Cuba as a young emerging country. The contrast is astounding. There were no collapsing buildings, the dollar and the peso were worth pretty much the same (actually, the peso in the 50's was worth more), QUALITY health care was free to all... including surgeries and any needed medications (Cuba's infant mortality rate in 1953 was HALF that of the US), and

education was free through postgraduate work... yes, including medical school. My dad is a retired oral surgeon. He paid only for room and board while attending the University of Havana. Were there problems and social issues? Obviously. I was raised in an imperfect paradise... with a revolution brewing in the background. But, what I see in photographs today crushes my heart. It is a colossal failure of a state and society. It bears no resemblance to the Cuba I knew... and, frankly, I'm in no rush to experience it.

Hortensia (Tensi) Torres-Comas '69
Long Beach, Calif.



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"In honor of my late husband, Norris, I am happy to support the next generation of students through my estate." —Joan E. Hekimian, donor

MC in the COMMUNITY

CANstruction for Food

The Student Construction Association, in conjunction with the Architecture Club, participated in the Washington, DC Canstruction Competition, a charity event that hosts competitions, exhibitions, and events showcasing structures made out of cans of food. After they are built, the cansculptures® go on public display as an art exhibition. Afterward, all food is donated to local hunger relief organizations. Last year, the MC team won the People's Choice Award for the Lincan Logs structure. The team donated more than 3,600 cans of food and \$6,030 to the Capital Area Food Bank.



World of Montgomery

festival in October celebrated the county's diverse cultural heritages through food, music, dance, traditional arts, and hands-on projects for children and families. Held at the Rockville Campus for the first time, the festival included exhibits on the four countries with the largest immigrant populations in Montgomery County: China, El Salvador, Ethiopia, and India.

Hurricane Katrina 10 Years Later commemoration

celebrated New Orleans's resurgence with several events: a street party (complete with Cajun food and brass band), art exhibit, film festival, and panel discussion in September.



Teaming with Lockheed Martin,

Cisco, Cloudera, Illumina (named by MIT as the smartest company in 2014), and Intel, the College is helping to advance public health. The new alliance combines the expertise of leading health IT providers, medical technology companies, and academic institutions. "We are so pleased to be part of this forward-thinking alliance," says MC President DeRionne P. Pollard. "Joining industry and academic research is the best way to spark innovation." MC was the only college asked to participate.

MC opened a second Community Engagement Center

in June, the East County Regional Services Center, which helps county residents find resources, classes, and information on higher education and career training options. The center is located at 3300 Briggs Chaney Road in Silver Spring.

Pete Vidal



MC in the COMMUNITY (continued)



Heard in Annapolis...

"I believe that every child in Maryland deserves a world-class education, regardless of what neighborhood they grow up in."

—Governor Larry Hogan, State of the State Address
"A New Direction for Maryland"
February 4, 2015, State House, Annapolis

41% of MC students

successfully complete their community college goals:

25%

transfer

16%

graduate

"What's happening to the other 59 percent? Our challenge is to find the 59 percent. Find them and engage them in meaningful and innovative ways."

.....
—MC President DeRionne P. Pollard, in a letter to staff and faculty on the first day of fall semester 2015

New all-online degrees

became a reality for students who want to earn an AA in business, computer science and technologies, or general studies without coming to campus. Online courses are taught by College faculty and follow the same curriculum as the traditional programs. Online students have access to College resources online and on campus. Enrollment in all three programs is expected to increase, based on the overall comfort today's students have with online courses, and the traditionally high demand for these programs on campus. "Students today are digital learners," says Dr. Michael Mills, vice president, e-learning, innovation, and teaching excellence. "They don't see [online learning] as anything unusual. It's just the way it is now."

"Are Entrepreneurs Born or Made?"

was held at the Bioscience Education Center in mid-October. The program featured "home-grown entrepreneur" panelists who shared their entrepreneur story, including what motivated them to take the risk. MC and Holy Cross Germantown Hospital sponsored the event as part of the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce Entrepreneurs Breakfast Series.

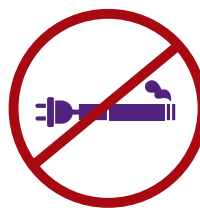


Pete Vidal

Find out what students really think

about Montgomery College. In their weekly blogs on the College website, selected students post their personal—and uncensored—perspectives about life at MC.

“The student blogger program has given students with a passion for writing a public platform to share their hopes, doubts, and experiences with one another,” says program coordinator Jane Abraham. To be considered, students must be enrolled, complete a rigorous application process, and make a one-year commitment; more than 80 students apply annually. The program began in 2010.



No vaping on campus

went into effect in June, after the College’s Board of Trustees voted to extend the existing tobacco policy to include electronic cigarettes. Use of both traditional and e-cigarettes is not permitted on any MC property, including buildings, walkways, recreation and athletic areas, building entrances, and parking lots. The e-cigs have also been banned by Montgomery County.



Milestones

62 countries and counting: From Cambodia to Kazakhstan, Bolivia to Burundi, viewers around the globe watched Commencement 2015, live and on YouTube.

MC Foundation **awarded a record number of scholarships** last year. More than 1,500 students received assistance.

More students enrolled in online courses during the spring semester: 17,860, which is a 6.7 percent increase over spring 2014.

Yasmine Bouchlaghem '15 became MC's **first intern placed at the National Portrait Gallery** in Washington, DC. Bouchlaghem worked in the gallery's New Media Department, taking photographs of artwork and events to be used in general marketing. She also supported the gallery's YouTube channel, and other social media sites and websites. Originally from Tunisia, Bouchlaghem enrolled in the College's graphic design (Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus) program.

The **first cohort of students in the Translation and Interpretation Institute** of Workforce Development and Continuing Education

graduated last July. The six-course certificate program serves the growing Latino community in the Washington, DC, area by preparing students to work as interpreters (English/Spanish) at government agencies.

Dr. DeRionne Pollard marked five years as the College's president this spring. Under her leadership, MC has weathered economic and enrollment ups and downs, re-branding efforts, and increased pressure from legislators in Annapolis and Washington to increase student completion rates (successful transfer or degree) by 2020. A special report, available in print and online at **blogs.montgomerycollege.edu/timeline**, highlights Pollard's efforts to lead MC toward the 2020 goals.



43% of all net new jobs in Montgomery County **+** **33%** replacement jobs **=** will require an associate's degree or higher level of college education (2012–2017)

Source: Workforce Trends in Montgomery County, Maryland 2012–2017, Stephen S. Fuller, PhD, Dwight Schar Faculty Chair and University Professor Director, Center for Regional Analysis, George Mason University, Arlington, Va. April 4, 2013

Hillman Entrepreneurship students

were among two of the three winning teams (of 18 teams in all) in a business-startup competition in NYC and DC in August. Students presented ideas to business experts—CEOs and entrepreneurs—during the three-day event, Athgothon. They competed against students from Duke, Cornell, and George Washington University. The David H. and Suzanne D. Hillman Family Foundation created the Hillman Entrepreneurs Program in 2006; it expanded to Montgomery College in 2013. It aims to help create and graduate entrepreneurial leaders who will create positive economic impact on their local communities.

800+ students attended the 10th Annual Scholarship Conference

held in October at the Universities at Shady Grove. The event featured scholarship opportunities at local colleges and universities, workshops on transferring and writing scholarship application essays, a panel discussion, and keynote speaker Marianne Ragins, who has won more than \$400,000 in scholarship funding. Information at: montgomerycollege.edu/scholarshipconference.

Potomac Review launched its new website,

blogs.montgomerycollege.edu/potomacreview. The new site features the Lunchbox interview with journal contributor Karen Craig, author of “Total Knee Replacement” and founder of Paper Crane Writing Services, plus links to new submissions pages for poetry, fiction, and nonfiction writers. Site mainstays include essays and updates on literary events.

MC in the News

NPR, All Things Considered

“Time Versus Debt: Why These Students Chose Community College,” prominently featured Carlos Mejia-Ramos ’15, Nancy Chen ’14, and Jake Meile ’15 in the story hosted by Robert Siegel.



Washington Post

Professor Deborah Stearns provided input to the Style blog (September 11, 2015) by Soraya Nadia McDonald: “Kylie Jenner and Bella Hadid are 18. Their boyfriends are 25. Why Do Their Relationships Elicit Such Different Reactions?”



“One Maryland College Tests a New Approach to Remedial Math Courses,” (July 30, 2015) featured student Yesenia Sanchez ’17 and John Hamman, dean of mathematics and statistics.



CNN Heroes

“Is This the Solution to ‘Throwaway Kids’?” (TV episode, July 16, 2015), featured an interview of Workforce Development and Continuing Education partner, Richard “Benney” Bienvenue. Bienvenue, a CNN hero, is founder of Our House, a residential job training center for youth males, located in Montgomery County. The College has tutored more than 40 Our House residents on-site; Professor Joel Levine heads up the partnership.



“Three Facts for College Graduates Considering an Additional Associate Degree,” featured alumna Lisa Baughman ’14 and Chief Enrollment Services and Financial Aid Officer Melissa Gregory.

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Nursing... ON THE ROAD TO MOROCCO



When nursing skills lab instructor Kathy Awkard read about a conference in Morocco last June, she saw it as a life-changing opportunity for her students. Awkard recruited **Mahdia Taheri '15** and **Aziz Elfath '15** to submit an abstract for a presentation, something neither had done outside of class before.

"I wanted to introduce them to an aspect of the nursing profession they never anticipated, a higher level of scholarship," says Awkard. She figured it was a long shot but sent in the submission anyway.

The International Conference on Technology in Higher Education, sponsored by the Hassan II University of Morocco, accepted the team's proposal: a 20-minute presentation entitled "Using Simulation and Technology to Teach Nursing Students about Culture: It's about Patient Safety."

Taheri, Elfath, and Awkard were the only community college representatives among presenters from Australia, South Africa, Czech Republic, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Oman. US presenters represented colleges and universities from California, Massachusetts, Georgia, Kentucky, Illinois, and Maryland



Courtesy Kathy Awkard

(Awkard and her team). Only one other team included students; all other presenters were academics.

"We talked about how MC uses simulation as a teaching modality/technique in nursing," says Awkard. "We further connected the ways in which using this technique addresses cultural considerations in the delivery of patient care. It's a matter of patient safety."

Elfath, originally from Morocco and close to graduating from the nursing program, wanted to polish his presentation skills. "As nurses, we need to use different approaches tailored to specific populations in order to reach positive outcomes," he says, adding, "I definitely



came out of this experience with a better understanding of what it takes to perform in an international setting."

Taheri, an Iranian-American who had never traveled outside the United States, took in the cultural differences and professional similarities.

"Globally the nursing profession is growing," she says. "We have a big role to play in the well-being of patients. Overall I feel this experience helped me be conscientious of how we interact with people."

The trip was funded, in part, through a grant (Who Will Care), awarded to the College to expand the use of simulation in the nursing program. ■



More Nursing News: DUAL ENROLLMENT WITH UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND



Starting this fall, nursing students can begin the process of dual enrollment with the University of Maryland. The opportunity puts them on the fast track toward bachelor's degree (BSN) attainment, which is quickly becoming the new industry higher education standard for RNs.

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) issued its new standards in 2010, in *The Future of Nursing Report*, which coincided with sweeping changes in the health care industry wrought by the Affordable Health Care Act. One recommendation particularly resonated with MC's nursing program: the 80/2020 recommendation, which calls for 80 percent of nurses working at the bedside to have a baccalaureate degree by 2020. Approximately 50 percent of nurses in the United States have a BSN.

The higher level of education is deemed necessary to move the nursing workforce to an expanded set of competencies, especially in the domains of community and public health, leadership, systems improvements and change, research, and health policy.

"Most health care today," states the IOM report, "relates to chronic conditions, such as diabetes, hypertension, arthritis, cardiovascular disease, and mental health conditions, due in part to the nation's aging population and compounded by increasing obesity levels."

Historically, nurses in the United States were trained to treat acute illness and injury, rather than chronic conditions. Today's patients require more advanced care; and the care environments are more complex with the advent of technological tools and information management systems, as well as increased collaboration for patient care across teams of health care professionals.

The dual enrollment program with University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON) gives students in the MC nursing program the means to continue working toward the BSN with no lapse in their education.

Under the agreement with Maryland, brokered by department head Barbara Nubile (now retired) and Rebecca Wiseman, associate professor and chair of the UMSON program at the Universities at Shady Grove, students will have simultaneous admission into MC's associate's degree (AS) program and UMSON's BSN program, while they satisfy the requirements of both schools. Students receive transfer credits for their completed coursework, and they have special student status that allows them to take UMSON courses while working on their AS.

Laurie Williams, academic progression manager, will work behind the scenes to implement the program and work with students as a liaison between MC and UMSON.

The dual enrollment program with University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON) gives MC nursing program students the means to continue working toward the BSN with no lapse in their education.

The nursing program currently has articulation agreements with local schools: George Washington University, Trinity Washington University, Towson University, Stevenson University, and University of Maryland School of Nursing. Others include Chamberlain College of Nursing (Va.), and online programs at Walden University, Drexel University, and Excelsior College. Under those agreements, the students' block of credits are awarded based on having a Registered Nurse (RN) license—meaning only RNs with active licenses receive upper-division nursing credits in the program they are entering—according to the Maryland Board of Nursing.

The UMSON agreement is the first dual enrollment program for nursing, and is supported in part by a Maryland Higher Education Commission grant. The first cohort of MC students will start at Maryland in spring 2017. ■

Nursing Numbers

At MC

128

qualified applicants admitted every semester to the nursing program

In Montgomery County

6,900 or 18%

net new health care jobs in 2012-2017, according to Workforce Trends in Montgomery County, Maryland

Across the US

3 million nurses =

the largest segment of the US health care workforce

7%

nurses who are men

More minority nurses are needed to serve the changing US population.*

*Source: Institute of Medicine of the National Academies Future of Nursing report, report brief, October 2010 "Focus on Education"



New!

INSTITUTE FOR PART-TIME FACULTY ENGAGEMENT & SUPPORT

Teaching part time is a way of life for more than 1,200 instructors at Montgomery College. Overall, part-time faculty teach more than half of all courses MC offers; they teach roughly 1,000 credit and 200 noncredit courses. In some departments, they comprise 90 percent of instructional staff. This scenario is not unusual at community colleges nationwide, but how part-time faculty are treated can vary from place to place.

This fall, the College began a comprehensive effort to bring its part-time faculty further into the fold, from their first day on campus. Under a new initiative, the Institute for Part-Time Faculty Support & Engagement, MC underscores its commitment to supporting part-time instructors.

"We are so fortunate to draw outstanding and exceptional people who bring so much from industry to the classroom," says Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Sanjay Rai. "They make our programs flexible, agile, and relevant—teaching courses

often in the evenings, and on weekends, and online."

Characterizing the part-time faculty can be difficult: they come from so many professional spheres. Some are captains of industry. Some are entrepreneurs, scientists, doctors, and attorneys. Others are award-winning artists, actors, and authors. They are career veterans from the trades, government, and public service. Often, they come from the same companies and organizations students hope to work for. An internal survey in 2014 revealed that 73 percent of part-time instructors teach only at MC, and 55 percent are interested in full-time teaching positions.

"With the educational landscape changing very quickly—including the need to increase graduation and transfer rates—these faculty need more support to keep them engaged academically," says Rai. Enhancing and supporting part-time instructors, he believes, will trickle down to student success, which is the ultimate, abiding goal. In 2014, Rai charged his

team with identifying ways to increase support for part-timers. He also underscored the need for urgency.

After just months of research, consulting, surveying part-time faculty, and recruiting input from 36 College personnel in relevant areas (i.e., information technology, human resources, facilities, etc.), Associate Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Clarice Somersall, the team's leader, rolled out the committees' recommendations.

"We tackled the thorny issues of space allocation, professional development, and faculty recognition first," says Somersall, who was once a part-time professor herself. She is among several senior-level administrators at the College who started as part-time faculty.

Next, the institute appointed a director: Dr. Antonio "Tango" Thomas. Thomas has served on various student-success initiatives at the College, including Gateway to College and the Student Support Services TRIO Program. Before coming to MC in 2006 as a part-time

faculty member, he taught on a part-time basis at American University, DeVry University, and the University of Baltimore. He also has expertise in educational technology and instructional design, including experience in online course development and adult learning.

Thomas will have support from campus-based managers who serve as liaisons to the campus Provosts' offices, academic departments, and the resource centers for part-time faculty, which are physically located on each campus.

In addition, part-time faculty associates—two at Takoma Park/Silver Spring, two at Germantown, and four at the Rockville Campus—will act as consultants to new part-time faculty. In this new role, the “veteran” part-time instructors will help orient their new counterparts to the College and direct them to services, such as academic and counseling programs.

A large advisory team will also meet monthly to serve as a sounding board to institute director Thomas, as the work of the overarching institute takes hold. Already, changes have begun to help part-time faculty get better connected to students and their peers. ■

Part-time Faculty Support and Engagement AT A GLANCE

- More professional development opportunities
- Wellness opportunities
- New website and e-newsletter—a robust virtual presence for information, training, and resources for part-time faculty
- New director of part-time faculty
- Campus-based part-time faculty associates
- An advisory team to guide the institute
- New or revamped resource centers (computers, coffee, cabinets, and areas to consult with students)
- Through collaboration with the MC Libraries, the allocation of consultation rooms for part-time faculty to work with students
- Orientation sessions alongside new full-time faculty
- New recognitions and rewards for excellence in part-time faculty
- Peer mentors in the future



Institute Director Dr. Antonio Thomas has taught part time at American University, DeVry University, and University of Baltimore. He holds seven academic degrees, including a doctorate in educational technology.



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eld (SDR_f) and stream (SDR_s)

$$\frac{dE_{fi}}{L_{fi}} \text{ and } SDR_{fi} = \exp\left[a_2\left(\frac{dE_{fi}}{L_{fi}}\right)^{a_2}\right]$$

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Se Jong Cho '00,
environmental engineer,
took on the water-quality
issues in the Midwest for a PhD
project. She developed a tool for
stakeholders to pinpoint and prioritize
specific watershed areas needing attention.



By Diane Bosser

Sedimental Journey Down the Mississippi

**The sediment
pollution there is
just as problematic
as the nutrient
pollution in the
Chesapeake Bay.**

Crops are the bread and butter of Minnesota's economy. Its 81,000 farms, the second-largest employer in the state, rank third in the nation for soybean production and fourth for corn. Unfortunately, with regard to the impact on water quality, what happens in Minnesota doesn't stay in Minnesota.

Because its interconnected waterways join the mighty Mississippi River, which originates inside the state, farmers, businesses, and environmentalists in Minnesota—and across the Heartland—struggle to meet EPA/Clean Water Act standards. Who can stop the runoff from crops grown in Minnesota from contributing to the Dead Zone in the Gulf of Mexico without reducing productivity or profit margins?

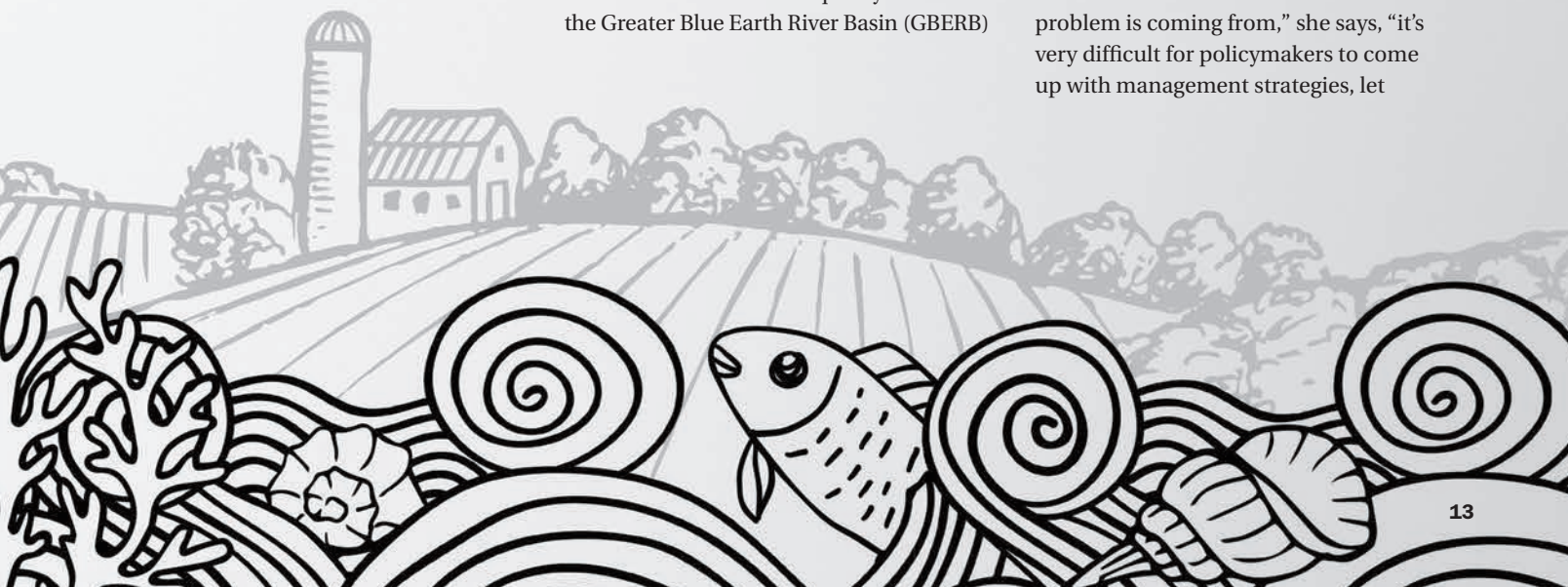
Environmental engineer Se Jong Cho '00 researched water quality issues in the Greater Blue Earth River Basin (GBERB)

of southern Minnesota. As a PhD candidate at Johns Hopkins University, Cho is developing a comprehensive computer modeling system assessing one of that area's persistent problems: sediment pollution in the river system.

Cho's research area comprised the river basins that drain into the Minnesota River, and the confluence with the Mississippi River, just south of the Twin Cities. Hundreds of streams feed these rivers, many of which have been designated as aquatic life impairments for turbidity, according to a Minnesota State University Water Resources Center report.

Why southern Minnesota, and why sediment? Cho says that region's waterway degradation has multiple contributors and multiple stakeholders. The sediment pollution there is just as problematic as the nutrient pollution in the Chesapeake Bay.

"When we don't know where the problem is coming from," she says, "it's very difficult for policymakers to come up with management strategies, let





Sediment in Minnesota streams comes from four major sources: agricultural fields, ravines, stream banks, and tall bluffs. Scientists document water elevation levels, erosion, and water flow (rates of speed and diversions) in order to make predictions about sediment impacts on the environment in local watersheds and downstream.

alone the economic impact of suggested strategies.”

Sediment is problematic because, suspended in water, along with other materials such as algae and organic and inorganic matter, it creates turbidity, or cloudiness. Too much turbidity is unhealthy for aquatic life; fish get particles caught in their gills and find it hard to see food, for example.

“How much water is flowing in the rivers matters,” says Cho.

Her research team traced the sources of sediment through sediment fingerprinting, and discovered that in recent decades more sediment is coming from near-channel sources like stream banks and bluffs, rather than from agricultural fields. This, she says, is due to successful agricultural conservation measures adapted and practiced since the 1930s.

“Before Europeans settled in the Land of 1,000 Lakes,” says Cho, “the area was

pockmarked with wetlands; prairie grass grew everywhere; water stayed in the land.” The fertile, impermeable soil, a result of Ice Age glacial deposits, yielded bumper crops and quickly attracted farmers to the Midwest. Their sustained agricultural success begot the regional nickname: America’s Breadbasket. It also increased demand for more arable soil. Clearing fields and draining soil to increase acreage contributed to erosion.

Cho gathered specific data on sources of stream sediment, as well as erosion-control methods from areas across the watershed. Control methods vary. They include agricultural conservation (planting conservation tillage, grassing in waterways, building terraces and buffer strips); hydrologic conservation (wetland restoration and drainage ditches); river contouring; stream restoration (stabilizing bluffs, ravines, and streambanks); and floodplain water storage.

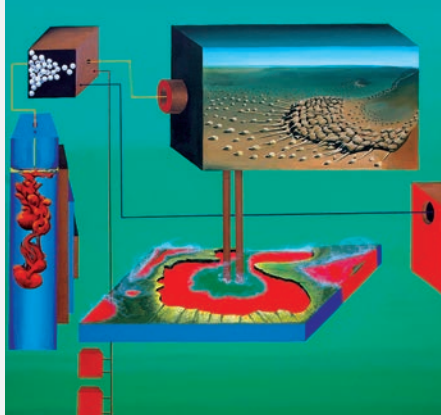
She used programming algorithms to develop a predictive model allowing users to measure sediment yields and develop sediment control strategies. It includes robust estimates of sediment sources, transport rates, and storages.

“We wanted to come up with realistic solutions,” she says about her team and local stakeholders. “My model can evaluate management options—such as reducing corn production and replanting crops with wetlands—for specific regions inside the watershed, and then predict how much each solution will cost.”

Cho’s work facilitates improved understanding of watershed’s hydrology (the scientific study of the movement, distribution, and quality of water on Earth and other planets, including water resources and watershed sustainability). She has given presentations to stakeholders several times during her six-year project, hoping it will spur wise decisions and stem further environmental damage. She plans to defend her dissertation in early spring 2016, then attempt something really daunting: enter the workforce. Cho hopes to find a new project and/or teaching position where she can continue problem-solving through engineering. ■

Se Jong Cho completed a BS in civil engineering from Northwestern University, where she studied structural engineering, transportation engineering and planning, and environmental planning and design. She completed an MS in environmental engineering while working at the Center for Talented Youth, and then at Bechtel Corporation, as a hydrology/hydraulics engineer, and an MSE in environmental management and economics.





Se Jong's Sci + Art

Long before Se Jong Cho developed high-tech tools for sediment control along Minnesota waterways, she thought about being an artist.

She took her first courses in the Art Department as a studio art major, with Calculus I and Physics I on the side. Technique and theory in color and composition held her interest and imagination—until she discovered her abilities in math and science. Her physics professor, Dr. Don Day, showed her the engineering programs; she started her second year at MC as an engineering student.

For more than a decade, Cho worked through bachelor's, master's, and PhD programs, all in civil engineering specialties. She also taught science and worked at a multinational engineering firm, but she never lost her creative impulses. Two years ago, she made time to paint. By then, she was living in Baltimore and well into her six-year PhD project. Painting was a way to unwind.

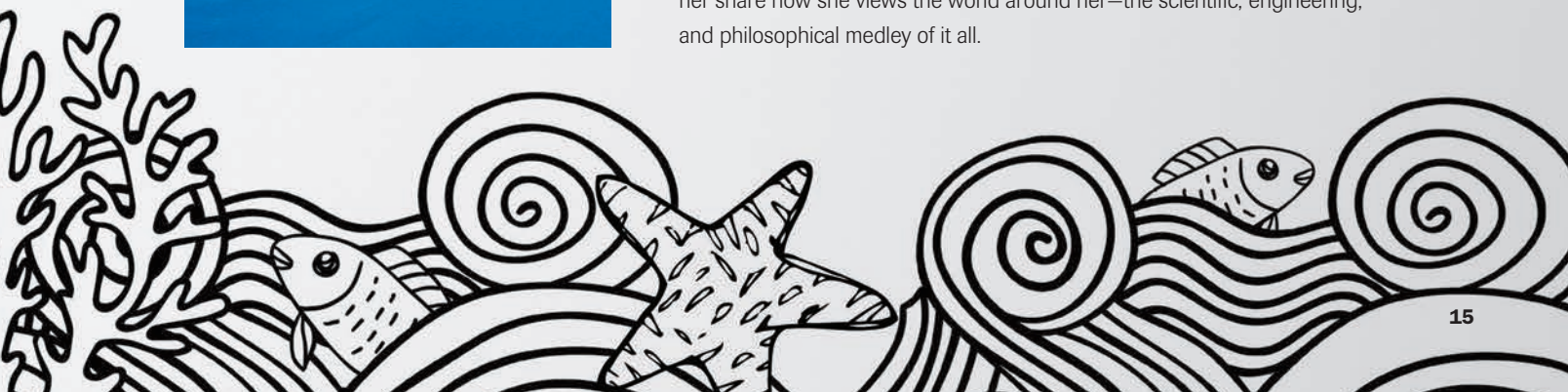
"I am using the techniques I learned in Professor [Robert] Cohen's art classes," she says. "I've been pretty prolific." She exhibited her work in four solo shows, most recently, the Blooms and Bodies exhibit at Current Gallery in Baltimore.

Her acrylic paintings are works of modern surrealism. Geometric shapes juxtaposed against organic forms create tension. Her colors are vibrant; her compositions feel precise but edgy. Science and the environment naturally inform her art. Works often contain geologic and/or anthropogenic elements—rock formations and waterways. Recurring subjects include animals and aquatic life; human anatomy and geometric shapes. Water is almost always the foundation of her compositions.

"I find beauty in the infographics and maps of scientific journals, so sometimes I translate them into paintings," she says.

For one work, *Mississippi River Delta*, she used false-color satellite imagery of the delta region and wrapped it around a cube held in mid-air by steel cables. In another, *Fragments*, she painted four elements—dunes, a thermal reservoir, liquid metal, and aspirin tablets—all interconnected and suspended against a graded sea-green background, reminiscent of ocean waters.

Part science illustration, part environmental homage, Cho's fantasy art lets her share how she views the world around her—the scientific, engineering, and philosophical medley of it all.





Helping students with **Autism** Find the Right Fit



Rick Reinhard



Autism affects one in every 68 children—and it is rising at a rate of 17 percent per year.¹ Dr. Paul Shattuck, a researcher at the A.J. Drexel Autism Institute at Drexel University, said 50,000 teens age out of school-based autism services each year.

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a serious neurodevelopmental disorder that impairs a child's ability to communicate and interact with others. It also includes restricted repetitive behaviors, interests, and activities. These issues cause significant impairment in social, occupational, and other areas of functioning.²

With a 6' 2" frame topped with a mop of sandy blond hair, William Rave stands out in a crowd. He describes himself as curious, outspoken—and hopefully amusing. The 20 year old said, "I think I have overcome a lot of the more annoying aspects of autism." Rave, who self-identifies as having Asperger's syndrome or high-functioning autism, graduated from Montgomery College in May 2015. He transferred to George Washington University this fall.

"My parents recommended the Scholars Program (Montgomery Scholars Honors Program) to me," he said. "It took a bit of convincing to make me go to a community college rather than my first

¹According to estimates by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

²Mayo Clinic

choice, University of Maryland,” he said, “but I’m glad I did it.”

“William came to the scholars program with an inquisitive mind and unbounded intellectual energy. When he left, he could analyze and communicate complex ideas and see their intersections. I look forward to hearing about his contributions to the world of political thought and practice for many years to come,” said Dr. Mary Furgol, director of the Montgomery Scholars Honors Program and Rave’s first-year history professor.

“This [Montgomery College] is a very good transitioning point. It is a steppingstone to more a formal college experience. You still have the structure of home life, but you have a self-guided schedule,” Rave said. “One thing that happens to a lot of autistic students is that they go to a four-year college and the scheduling is overwhelming. They end up not going to classes, not doing work, and hanging out in their rooms. They get put on probation or drop out.”

“I had a lot of stress related to the workload at first,” said Rave. “The Scholars Program is very vigorous. The first semester we had an essay due every week, starting at 750 words and up,” he says. Rave admits moving from high school to college was a major shift.

“It is a big transition,” said Sue Haddad, department chair of the College’s Office of Disability Support Services (DSS). “Students on the autism spectrum need more guidance. It’s incumbent on the student to seek out these services. They move from being ‘entitled to services’ to ‘eligible for services.’ Among the things we focus on are educating them on their responsibilities as a college student, teaching them how to navigate the

College, and availing themselves of many resources available to them. It is not the same as high school, when everything was done for them.” Haddad noted the College’s population of students who self-identified as on the autism spectrum escalated from 40 to 185 over a five-year period, beginning in 2010.

“These numbers are some of the highest among community colleges in the state of Maryland,” said Lee Armstrong, program coordinator for the Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS). So, DORS approached Montgomery College with an innovative partnership to provide additional educational—and social—support to students who have ASD.

The DORS-Pathways Program, which started in January 2015 on the Rockville Campus, serves up to 20 students a year who provide documentation of a disability, have a DORS Individualized Plan for Employment that deems college a necessary part of a vocational plan, and who register with the Disability Support Services Office at Montgomery College.

In the DORS-Pathways Program, students not only receive academic assistance from Montgomery College DSS counselors, but also intensive support services and individual interventions through one-on-one and small group sessions.

DORS Rehabilitation Specialist Whitney Gray works closely with DORS-Pathways students, their professors, and their DSS counselors to keep students on track academically. Furthermore, Grey helps students with career guidance, organizational and time-management skills, and interpersonal communication skills.

Karla Nabors supervises Steven Seo, who makes computer-generated certificates for students. Seo, who took classes in the College’s Challenge Program, now works one day a week at Montgomery College and another day for the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office as part of SEEC Project SEARCH Montgomery.





Is Your Student Ready for college

For many parents, the idea of sending their college-aged child with autism onto a college campus can be daunting. A common question is: Is my child ready for this socially?

One of the most critical skills that a parent can teach their child is to self-advocate. Preempting difficult situations is an effective method of helping your child prepare for the complex social demands of a college campus. Talking through hypothetical situations with your child is a wonderful means of preparing for tricky scenarios. Brainstorm scenes your child might encounter and work with him or her to generate solutions, scripting what they should do and say. Make sure to write things down or draw pictures to help visual learners. Social narratives are also useful tools. They are short stories that describe social situations and the desired or expected behavior in that situation. Social narratives can be a useful tool to help college-aged students know how to



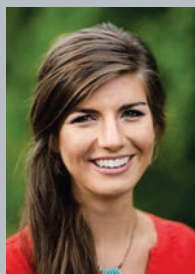
appropriately self-advocate.

You can also help your child prepare for future problems by discussing past events. Make a habit of doing a “daily download” with your child, making sure to ask him or her about any difficult parts of the day, reviewing what they could have done differently. Ask questions.

Your child may not volunteer information because it may be difficult for him or her to know if a situation is worth discussing.

Endless situations can be addressed in these methods, ranging from talking to a teacher about a misplaced homework assignment, to politely insisting on disability accommodations while taking a test. It’s essential to equip children with the power to stand up for themselves and express their needs.

Some resources that might be helpful on this journey include: *Navigating College: A Handbook on Self-Advocacy Written for Autistic Students from Autistic Adults* published by The Autistic Self-Advocacy Network (ASAN), and *Socially Curious and Curiously Social* by Michelle Garcia Winner and Pamela Cooke.



Rachel Hoover '08, MS, CCC-SLP, participated in the Montgomery Scholars Honors Program. She is a speech-language pathologist who specializes in working with young adults with autism. Follow her on Twitter @rachelchoover for helpful tips for parents and therapists.

Rave underscores the importance and value of learning social skills: “One of the hallmarks of autism—and certainly one I have noticed in both myself and other people with autism I know—is obsession. And, because we lack intuitive empathy, we don’t realize we’re boring someone by going on about our obsession. I had to work hard to overcome that—and I think it is a very important skill I’ve learned.”

Many students with an ASD face a bleaker future than William Rave. According to a 2012 study released by the American Academy of Pediatrics, less than 35 percent of young adults with an ASD had attended

“Needless to say, the numbers are driving us to serve more and more students.”

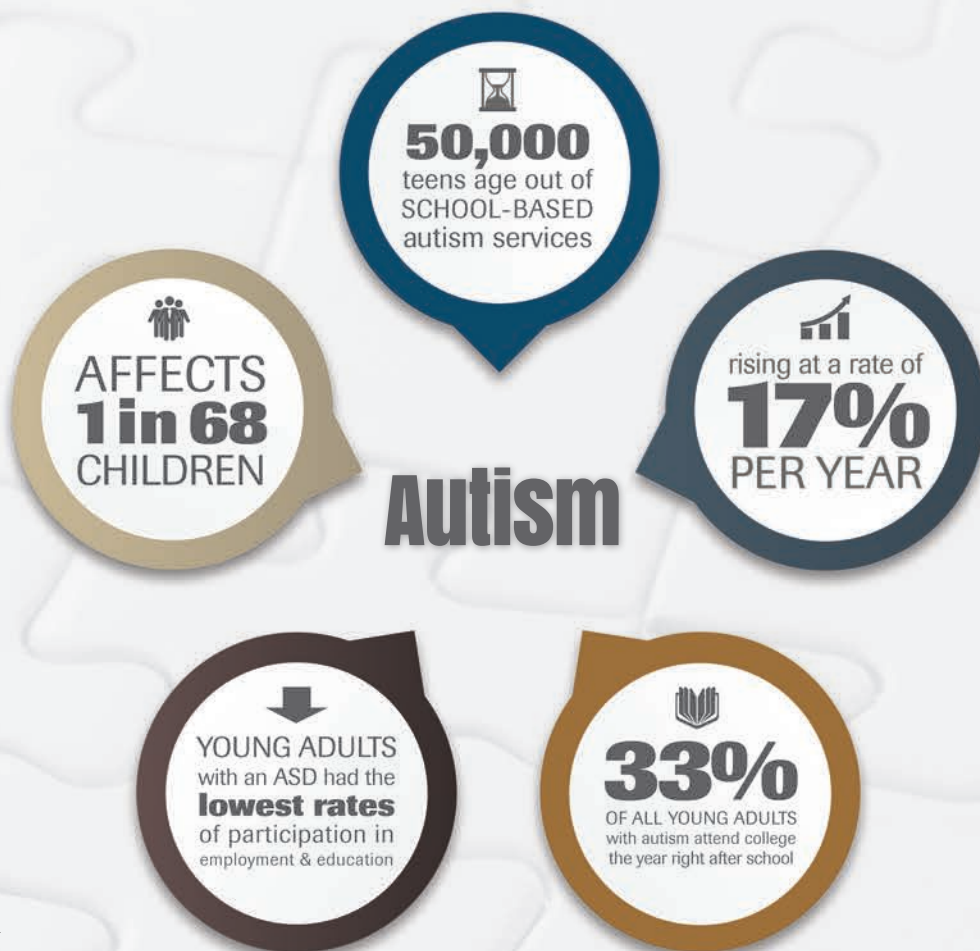
—Karla Nabors
Director of Developmental
Education/Workforce Access



college. And more than 50 percent of young adults with an ASD who left high school in the past two years did not seek employment or education. Furthermore, young adults with an ASD had the lowest rates of participation in employment and education compared to young adults in other disability categories.

“When I started at Montgomery College, if a student did not pass Accuplacer, the placement test, there was nothing for individuals with significant developmental disabilities. The subtext was: ‘Sorry, college is not for you,’” said Karla Nabors, director of developmental education/workforce access in Workforce Development & Continuing Education. During her 15-year tenure, Nabors, almost single-handedly, has established nearly a half-dozen programs benefiting students with autism—and other disabilities.

Arguably the most innovative of these programs is the Graduate Transition Program (GTP), which Nabors developed in 2001. Two parents approached Nabors with the idea that their significantly developmentally disabled children would like to experience what college would be like. Nabors secured seed money from the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services Aging and Disability



William Rave celebrates with fellow honors students. He earned a 3.59 GPA in the Montgomery Scholars Honors Program.

Services to start the program, a two-year, tuition-based, credit-free certificate program that focuses on basic academic skills—and enhances a student’s potential success as a productive citizen.

When the GTP Program made front-page news in the *Washington Post* in 2003, applications doubled. In 2007, Nabors expanded the program to morning and afternoon sessions to meet the increasing demands.

To supplement the instructional component of the program, Nabors partnered with the mental health degree program at the College to give students an opportunity to complete their 200-hour practicum in the developmental programs. For more than eight years, dozens of students have completed their fieldwork in Nabors’s programs as instructional assistants.

Over the years, she has forged unique partnerships with Montgomery County Public Schools and other county agencies

to educate students and place them in internships, jobs, and volunteer positions. Most recently, she teamed up with SEEC Project SEARCH Montgomery, a school-to-work transition program placing interns with developmental disabilities like ASD in county departments and related agencies.

“For nearly 30 years, I have worked with adults and children with autism,” said Nabors. “Needless to say, the numbers are driving us to serve more and more students. Montgomery College’s programs are viable options for families who want their sons and daughters to experience college—and keep them close enough to help them manage their academic success.” ■

For more information on the comprehensive list of services available to students with autism at Montgomery College, visit montgomerycollege.edu/dss and montgomerycollege.edu/wdcel/developmentaleducation.

*Rest at the Rock.
Pause at the Flowers.*





By
Diane Bossen



Duilhac-sous-Peyrepertuse by L. Peat O'Neil

Courtesy L. Peat O'Neil

In times of trial and transition, some people hunker down; they find comfort in familiar routines and surroundings. Others, like Peat O'Neil '15, do the opposite; they break away.

On the brink of turning 50, O'Neil was busy writing for the *Washington Post* by day and teaching travel writing at night; but she wanted a new project or adventure to mark the occasion; preferably something physically demanding. Browsing a Bethesda bookstore in March 2000, she found what she was looking for in a guidebook about hiking the Pyrenees Mountains.

As she paged through the guide, gathering details about the region, O'Neil formed an idea: a pilgrimage eastward across France, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea, a distance of several hundred miles by footpath.

The Pyrenees range in southwest Europe forms a natural border between France and Spain. The mountain pass at the western Pyrenees crossing stands at 3,156 feet above sea level, while higher elevations in the central section reach above 11,000 feet. For centuries, the region has been the route for religious pilgrims—"the tourists of medieval times," as O'Neil calls them. Today, in addition to weekend and seasonal visitors, the area draws crowds each June for the Tour de France. Accommodations at local farms, inns, and *gîtes*, or simple shelters with nearby caretakers, are spaced about a day's walk apart, eliminating the need for camping gear.

O'Neil arrived in Europe in September carrying a 25-pound hiking pack; it was late in the season, but she'd been unable to finish work and freelance projects any sooner. Her route would be the GR-10 footpath, a lower-elevation/more direct route than others in the region. It meanders through forests, past farms and sheep pastures in hidden Basque valleys, and along cobblestone lanes and paths.

"I took a deep breath of the Atlantic wind, faced east, and took my first steps on the trail, following the credit card-sized red and white path blazes painted on walls, lamp posts, and guard railings."

O'Neil kept a journal and sketched the landscape in watercolor during her expedition. She published the narrative, *Pyrenees Pilgrimage, Walking Across France* in 2010. It details regional history, architecture, and the people she encountered, including "farm women who saluted my independence... English vicars on vacation... and weekend warrior mountain bikers."

She developed a daily routine of walking from 10 a.m. until early afternoon. She averaged 15 to 25 kilometers (9 to 16 miles) a day. Gradually, mile after mile, her back hardened and her feet hurt less. While it was physically demanding,

the solo hike proved emotionally calming.

"Hikers need rewards to carry on," she wrote. "Spotting wildflowers up ahead or an oddly shaped rock, I would use it as an incentive to plod upward. Rest at the rock. Pause at the flowers."

By October, she observed the shortening daylight hours. Only once did it seem she might not find shelter before nightfall—the day she slipped and injured herself.

Instead of going the long way around, O'Neil decided she could make it across a stream. Partially across, her foot slipped on the rocks and she fell into the rushing water. Her arms reached out to break the fall, and she snapped her wrist. Shivering and in pain, she fought back panic, and hiked out to find help. She underwent surgery, alone, in the local hospital; the surgeon, luckily, was an expert in Tour de France wrist injuries.

O'Neil resumed the trip the following spring, fully recovered. In total, she completed 685 kilometers (425 miles) in actual distance.

"So many people—especially women—tell me they always wanted to travel but never had anyone to go with." To the woman who paid for and organized her first trip to Europe at 16, that notion is misguided: "If you only get 960 months on Earth, what are you going to do with them?" she says.

It's true: the average lifespan for a woman in the United States, according

to the US Census Bureau (2011), is 80.8 years; for men, it's 76. Past the halfway mark, O'Neil says physical fitness preparation has become more important than the library/online research she does to prepare for traveling.

"On my last trip in May (2015)—three weeks of walking in cities, driving in mountains, and generally moving around through England, France, and Andorra—I overloaded my wheeled bag and was unprepared for the hard pavements, stairs in the London Tube, and Paris Metro. I learned I can no longer depend on shaping up during the first few days of a trip. Better to start a month in advance. It is also important to test-drive your gear—luggage, backpacks, walking shoes, or boots."

O'Neil plans to finish writing a book about living in Mexico while she was a foreign service officer for the US Department of State. She also wants to start writing the others (she has about 10 more in mind). Currently, she is planning the details to lead a walking and sketching tour of a segment of the *Pyrenees Pilgrimage* route. The May 2017 trip, which follows the southwest French route of the *Chemin de St. Jacques*, will be geared toward moderate walkers and artists of any skill level. ■

Follow Peat O'Neil online at adventuretravelwriter.org



Pete Vidal

Peat O'Neil, writing instructor, author, and expert traveler, is also a lifelong learner. Since the 1990s, she has returned to MC to pursue her various interests: Russian language and history, exercise science, and computer science. Most recently, she enrolled in a cartography course, which led to a degree in applied geography and a certificate in geography education.

A Storied Career

L. Peat O'Neil '15, a native Washingtonian, worked on the news staff of the *Washington Post* for nearly two decades. She has published three books: *Pyrenees Pilgrimage*, *Walking Across France* (2010); *Travel Writing, A Guide to Research, Writing and Selling* (Writer's Digest Books, 1995, 2005); and a chapter in *Siberia: In Search of Adventure: A Wild Travel Anthology* (CCC Publishing, 1999), about her adventures in Kamchatka, Russia. She has contributed feature articles to numerous journals, websites, newspapers, and magazines. She teaches writing at The Writer's Center in Bethesda and for UCLA online. Her travel sketchbooks were featured in an exhibit, *Intimate Journeys—Artists Sketchbooks* (1994), at the National Museum of Women in the Arts. At

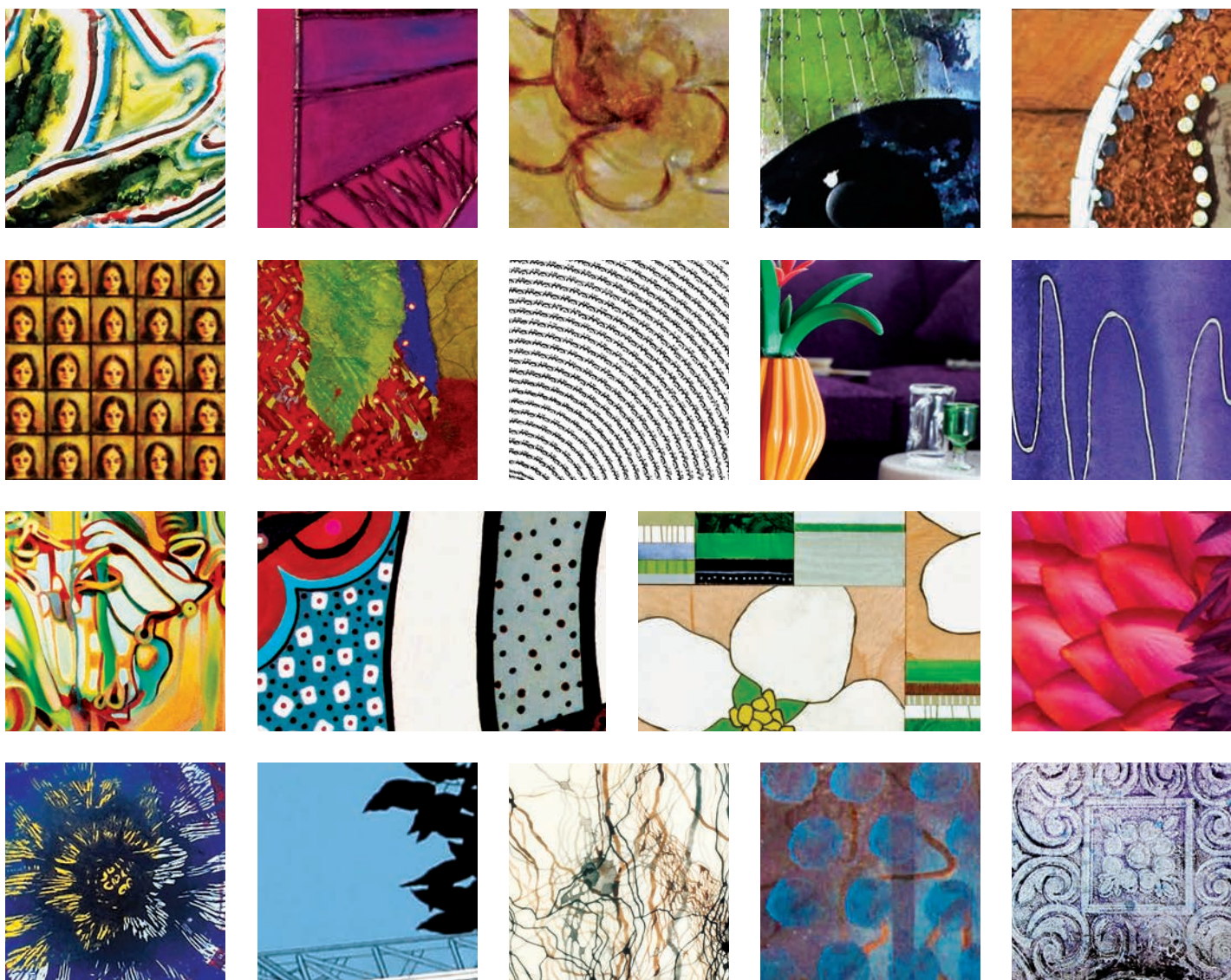
MC, she earned an AAS in applied sciences (applied geography) and a certificate in geography education.



Courtesy L. Peat O'Neil



Chateau Peyrepertuse by L. Peat O'Neil



MAKING PATTERNS PERSONAL

by claudia rousseau, curator

Pattern is everywhere around us; in nature, in our bodies, in our dreams, in our behaviors, and in our memories. After years of being relegated to the derogatively meant “merely decorative,” increasing numbers of artists have turned to pattern with enthusiasm.

Galleries everywhere are blossoming with it. One might even see the popularity of exotically patterned and colored tattoos as part of the widespread contemporary trend. As a reflection of contemporary multiculturalism and the encouragement of diversity in Western societies, it is playing a part in the new discourse on what constitutes

art as distinct from craft, as well as being one perspective in the ongoing multiplicity of approaches to making art in this century.

The idea for an exhibition originated in a conversation with artist Ellen Hill about the prevalence of pattern in contemporary art. As we developed the parameters for a show that would illustrate this trend in the Washington, DC, region, we began to think of pattern as both a visual concept and as a psychological or behavioral phenomenon that can be expressed through artistic means. We then invited a group of area artists working with pattern in a variety of two- and three-dimensional media to participate.



We were interested in how an artist's use of pattern might reveal something about his or her sense of identity, express cultural traditions, ethnic or racial origins, and family ties. Might it be used to express an opinion on political or scientific ideas, or a concern for the environment and its current problems? How can pattern communicate emotion and express meaning? Does it invite intimacy or does it tend to hold the viewer at a distance? Is it feminist, or connote feminism, or is it universal? Where does it fit in modern art history?

The 19-artist exhibition we put together clearly demonstrates the extensive and varied use of pattern in contemporary art. What is perhaps most striking is the way that each of the artists adopted pattern in a personally distinctive way—hence the show's title. ■

Exhibition

Through November 25, 2015

King Street Gallery, The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Arts Center. Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus 240-567-5821.

Artists represented: Sondra Arkin, Michele Banks, Jessica Beels, Joan Belmar, Shanthi Chandrasekar, Alonzo Davis, Helen Frederick, Susan Goldman, Amber Robles-Gordon, Pat Goslee, Elyse Harrison, Sean Hennessey, Ellen Hill, Matt Hollis, Bridget Sue Lamber, Jessica van Brakle, Carien Quiroga, Ellyn Weiss, Helen Zughaib.



Claudia Rousseau, PhD, has taught at MC since 2003. An internationally published scholar, she is also a recognized critic of contemporary art and a curator of art exhibits in the region. Dr. Rousseau is a member of the International Association of Art Critics (AICA). She serves as a panel member of the Public Arts Trust Steering Committee of the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, as well as the Art Review Panel at Maryland Park and Planning for public art.

Art Events

Editor's Picks

Special Event

Saturday, December 5, 7 p.m.



CAC and Maryland Traditions co-presentation: Achievements in Living Traditions and Arts (ALTA) Awards

The annual awards honor outstanding stewardship of Maryland traditions. The event will feature traditional folk and musical performances.

montgomerycollege.edu/cac

Theater/Family Events



ANDES MANTA

Saturday, November 21, 11 a.m.

One-hour show of Andean flute, six-foot-long panpipes, and folklore of the Andes, followed by a **panpipe-making workshop for families at 12:30 p.m.**

Hands-on learning experience for children and adults on how to assemble the panpipe and play an Andean song.

montgomerycollege.edu/cac

Music



LÚNASA: CHRISTMAS FROM IRELAND
Saturday, December 19, 8 p.m.

Traditional Irish instrumental music.

montgomerycollege.edu/cac

Many arts events at the College are free to the public. Check online for a complete list of activities at all three campuses.

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

Send your updates and photos via e-mail to alumni@montgomerycollege.edu or the online "Submit Your News" form at montgomerycollege.edu/insights.

Photo Submission Guidelines

Send your photos as high-resolution JPG files (at least 1800 x 1200 pixels or 1 MB file size). Do not embed your photos into your e-mail. Send them as attachments. Because of space limitations, we are not able to publish every photo we receive.

1970s

Robert DeVroom '70 retired after 43 years at General Electric Healthcare.

Marco Barriga '74 graduated from Miami-Dade Community College with AS and AA degrees. He has a diploma in biblical studies from Southern Baptist Convention Seminary Extension. Now working for the Tennessee Valley Authority in environmental compliance, Marco plans to retire within the next two years, then teach Hebrew and Greek.

1980s

Dr. Usa Bunnag '87 has been named a Fellow of the International College of Dentists.

1990s

Richard Holley '92 graduated with bachelor's degrees in occupational therapy and sociology from Towson University. He is currently pursuing a master's in adult education from Pennsylvania State University. Richard also serves as a major in the United States Army Reserve with the 328th Medical Detachment-Combat



Warren Maddox

Joe McCary '70, Lon Anderson '70, Harry Zecher '69, and Len Jaffe '70 assembled at the National Press Club to celebrate Lon's retirement after 21 years as the spokesman for AAA Mid-Atlantic—keeping motorists aware of road safety and local governments accountable for highway maintenance.

Lon's retirement party drew colleagues from his years with the Rockville Campus newspaper, *The Spur*. Lon is a past Alumni Association president and a 1998 recipient of the Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award. Along the way, he also worked in the College administration, handling public affairs.

Operation Stress Control (COSC) in Pennsylvania.

John Putman '96 is a communications specialist with the Howard County Public School System.

2000s

Jae Ware '01 completed an MFA in creative writing at Southern New Hampshire University in May 2015.

Your Generosity to The Scholarship Fund Helps Our Students Realize Their Dreams

montgomerycollege.edu/onlinegiving

For more information, contact Greg Enloe, director of alumni relations and annual giving, at 240-567-7977 or gregory.enloe@montgomerycollege.edu.



Jean Francois Onana
First-Year Student

Grace Forsythia Igot '02 is an archaeological field technician for Skelly and Loy Inc.

Bert Tondo '02 is an architect in the contract management division of Jacobs. He handles remote contracts for jobs in the US and Europe.

Amy Gueye '03, recipient of the inaugural Rising Star Young Alumni Recognition Award, recently completed her residency at Johns Hopkins University and has joined WomanKind as a general obstetrician/gynecologist physician. She aims to build a woman's health center in Senegal and works on global women's health projects with Jhpiego, a nonprofit global health affiliate of Johns Hopkins.

Megan Anders '04 received a post-master's certificate in applied behavior analysis from the School of Education at Johns Hopkins University.

Laura Vasquez '05 left her position with the US Army Public Health Command and is now an environmental scientist and engineering officer in the Army. She was commissioned as a first lieutenant and has moved to San Antonio, Tex., for training.

Irena Antic '06 completed her doctorate in biology at Northwestern University and is now a postdoctoral researcher at Carnegie Mellon University.



Pete Vidal

Franklin Nouketcha '11 passed the written qualifying exam for his PhD. An electrical engineering major while at Montgomery College, he received the L.D. Bliss Electrical Society Scholarship in 2011. After completing his studies at MC, Franklin transferred to the University of Maryland where he was a recipient of the Tech Council of Maryland Kendall Scholarship. Passing the written qualifying exam means that Franklin demonstrated competency in basic math, linear systems, devices, and digital logic. Next up for Franklin is the oral portion of the qualifying requirement for his PhD.

Charles J. Overly '06 is pursuing an MBA at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He and his wife, **Sara Montone '06**, moved to Chapel Hill in July.

Hernan Francis Igot '07 is a graphic designer at the American Society for Engineering Education.

Holly Kent-Payne '07 is now a permanent resident of the US. She lives in Chicago, where she teaches English and literature at Westwood College. She is involved in political activism through the Antiwar Committee-Chicago.

Todd Culliton '08 graduated magna cum laude from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and is

a member of the Order of the Coif. He is now studying for the bar.

David Foote '08 married Sharon Vitello in October.

2010s

Christopher Torres '14 is a senior in Catholic University of America's architecture program. He interns at Division 1 Architects in Washington, DC.

Belinda Hester '15 transferred to Shaw University in Raleigh, NC.

Giday Samoeil '15 transferred to the University of Maryland to complete a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.

In Memoriam

Jennifer Quigley Guido

August 9, 2015

She was an operations director in the College's Academic Affairs Office.

Mildred Ancrum Peele '61

July 1, 2015

Herbert David Duey '52

June 24, 2015

Mariam Folashade Adebayo '10

June 1, 2015

John Braddy '72

July 13, 2014



Courtesy Montgomery County Police

Carol A. Mehrling '68 June 14, 2015

She was the first woman to serve as chief of police of Montgomery County. Upon her appointment, the county had the second largest department in the US ever to be led by a woman. Chief Mehrling was a 1997 recipient of the Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award.

Mark Henrichs '92

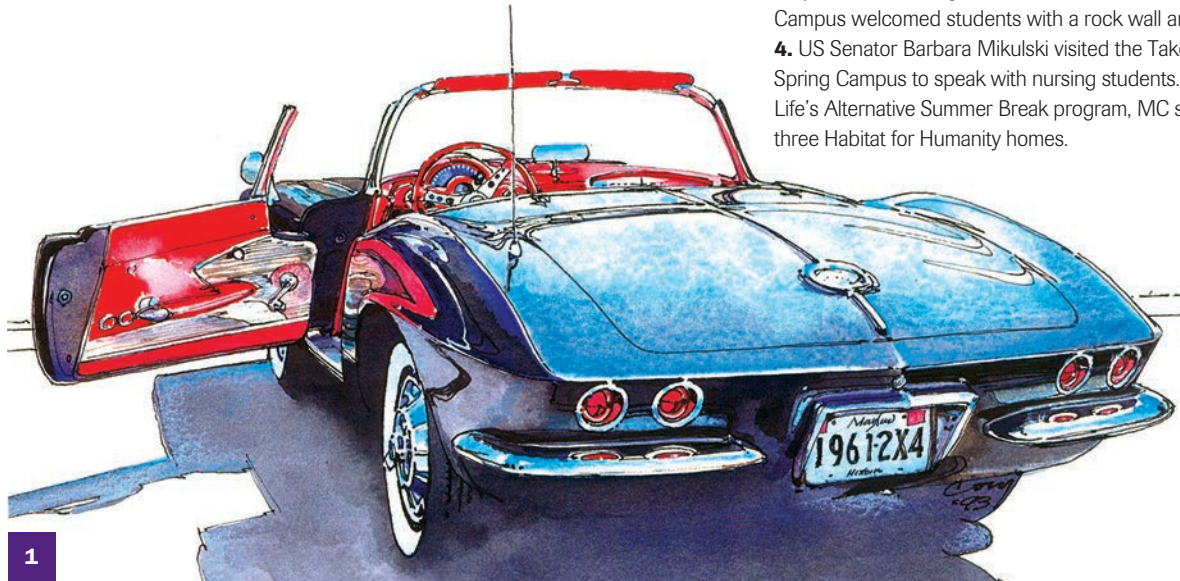
March 12, 2014

Karl John Petersen '82

August 29, 2013

FANTASTIC FALL

1. *The Art of the Automobile*, an exhibition of classic and vintage car illustrations by professor Cory Correll '77. **2.** As part of the Side-Out Foundation's Dig Pink initiative, the MC volleyball team hosted a Dig Pink game against Garrett College to raise funds for patients with Stage 4 breast cancer. **3.** The Germantown Campus welcomed students with a rock wall and other festivities. **4.** US Senator Barbara Mikulski visited the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus to speak with nursing students. **5.** Through Student Life's Alternative Summer Break program, MC students helped build three Habitat for Humanity homes.



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A HIT PARADE

★★★★★

Summer Dinner Theatre
2015's production of *Legally
Blonde: The Musical* (based
on the movie) earned rave
reviews from DC-area critics.

Maryland Theatre Guide.com: "Who knew that a quintessential Valley Girl who loves to wear pink, has a bubbly personality, and is yes, legally blonde, could be so sophisticated?"

DC Metro Theatre: "As Elle, Victoria Meyers is stunning. ..."

Theatrebloom.com: "Director Mark Minnick (assisted by MCSDT's directing intern Niko Stamos)... and this cast of stunning talent are driven as hell and the resulting production is rewarding beyond compare. ... There are voices and personalities for miles in this production..."



Watch for 2016 production auditions and performances: montgomerycollege.edu/sdt