# MONTGOMERY COLLEGE



ARE WE SAFE?

Addressing campus security in the wake of school shootings



Seven decades ago, Montgomery Junior College began teaching night classes at B-CC High School. While it would take four years for the College to get its own campus, some things had to be done right away: picking colors for its athletic teams (burgundy and gold, a local favorite), and creating an institutional seal (the design by the late Donald Coupard '48 endures today, without "Junior" in the name).

But an official seal doesn't work everywhere. For much of our history, an informal brand has promoted our College. An "MJC" monogram in a gold box gave way to a colonnaded "MC" when the name shortened, followed by an abstract, hole-punch collage in 1980. Now, for its 70th anniversary, the College debuts a new logo with a hint of a Raptor claw along the top. You'll find that image on new College materials, and we'll work it into our own items when we welcome upcoming classes of Raptors as Alumni Association members.

If you read the *Washington Post* five to ten years ago, you may remember a delightful

comic about life in the Washington suburbs. Richard Thompson '78 took his "Cul de Sac" strip from the *Post Magazine* to national syndication, and eventually won cartooning's highest award, the Ruben. Richard, who received our Milton F. Clogg Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award in 2004, passed away this summer. He was active in Rockville's student life, including *The Spur*—where his first comic strip ran—and the Medieval Militia, where he hung out with Gail Rubin '78. Gail's blog about Richard is a fitting remembrance to share in this issue.

Richard was one of two honorees we lost this year: Hall of Fame coach Jim Davis passed away last spring. Coach Davis was a beloved regular at our awards dinners, and a generation of MC athletes will miss him. Another honoree, Ed Riggs '69, is still going strong as a communication arts professor. We followed him beyond his day job to find out more about his other life on the ski slopes. Other alums we feature here are Lyudmyla Panashchenko '05, who troubleshoots satellite parts for NASA, and Sarah Lasko '10, who Lori Thomas and members of the Alumni Association's governing board meet in the Board of Trustees room. The modern version of Donald Coupard's College seal appears at left.

wrapped up a national tour as Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz.* 

Every September, your Board of Governors welcomes students who receive Alumni Association scholarships. Our photo from that meeting is already out of date, as Debbie Dwyer '80 has left the board to serve as a Maryland Circuit Court judge. We're thrilled for her success, and I'm happy that Jane Smith '76 has agreed to fill Debbie's term as vice president.

Finally, I congratulate the Alumni Association's longtime staff assistant, Bernice Grossman, who in 2007 became the only College staffer to receive an honorary MC degree, and who is retiring in January. Her friendly support and encyclopedic knowledge of the local business and government community have been a great asset to our Association, and she has been a consistent supporter of MC's students through a scholarship fund. To see more about our plans for giving her a big send-off, visit us at facebook.com/MCAlumniAssociation.

h Thomas

Lori A. Thomas '99 Montgomery College Alumni Association President

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION President Lori A. Thomas '99 Vice President Jane C. Smith '76 (succeeding Debra L. Dwyer '80) Secretary Yogeeta Purohit '00 Treasurer Matthew B. Morgan '04 Immediate Past President Richard E. Beall '71 Board of Governors Mahlon G. "Lon" Anderson '70, Liz Brandenburg '08, Carole O. Carlson '94, Gabe Derosier '01, Tookie Gentilcore '94, Dr. Susan M. Hendricks '87, Fatou A. Jallow '14, Michael W. Jones '85, Blanca P. Kling '92, Joyce M. Knight '91, Nichole C. Land '10, Carol W. Leahy '74, Monique I. Martinez-Depaz '15, Carlos Mejia-Ramos '15, A. Georgina Oladokun '97, Bryan N. Phukan '05, Anita Neal Powell '79, Bobbi Price '80, Alexander G. \*Sasha" Stone '14, Suzanne M. Thompson '82, Judith Vaughan-Prather '69, Dr. Lucy U. Vitaliti '77 Executive Director Greg Enloe

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 Email alumni@montgomerycollege.edu Online montgomerycollege.edu/alumni Facebook facebook.com/mcalumniassociation

#### **MONTGOMERY** COLLEGE



#### **FEATURES**











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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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#### **ABOUT THE COVER**

Staff photographer Pete Vidal and designer Krista Hanson photographed students on the Rockville Campus. From street level near the Humanities Building and from rooftop positions on Campus Center and Macklin Tower, they used a tilt-shift lens to capture the typical Tuesday and Thursday morning rush to and from class. Designers Clint Wu and Krista Hanson then collaborated to create the photo illustration used on the cover.

# RAPTOR NOTES

# **Keeping MC in the Loop**

In 2013, Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk proposed a revolutionary mode of transportation—hyperloop: a vacuum tube with pods that carry people and cargo between cities at speeds more than 700 miles per hour. Five alumni want to make hyperloop possible.

"The great thing about this team is that everyone involved has learned something new—from machining to various software programs to help us succeed."

ROBINSON-TILLENBURG

Now students or recent graduates at the University of Maryland, Erich Robinson-Tillenburg '13, Catherine Demmerle '15, Austin Gerrety '13, Alla Bliskovsky '16, and Nicolas Gomez-Bustillo '15 are part of UMD Loop, a 50-plus member student design team preparing for the Hyperloop Pod Competition on January 27–29, 2017.

The competition, at a mile-long test track at SpaceX's Hawthorne, California, headquarters, requires university students and independent engineering to design and build the best Hyperloop pod. The pods will be judged on run time, safety and reliability, design ingenuity, and scalability. Besides interfacing with other engineers and earning bragging rights among the nations and the world's top design teams, there is an undisclosed cash prize as well as the "SpaceX experience."

The UMD Loop team, one of 30 finalists out of 1,200 original entrants, earned a berth in the competition by presenting a 150-page preliminary report on their pod at Design Weekend at Texas A&M University last spring. Competition is stiff, with teams from MIT, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Virginia Tech, and international powerhouses from Delft University of Technology (The Netherlands) and Keiko University (Japan).

COURTESY ALLA BLISKOVSKY

The team's pod, Prometheus, will be a scaled-down version of the vehicle that one day might carry 20 to 40 people. The pod will be capable of reaching speeds of 220 miles per hour. It will utilize entirely passive magnetic levitation, control, and braking systems to complete the one-mile test track in less than thirty seconds!

The team was chartered in June 2015. Robinson-Tillenburg, the team's president, not only worked on all aspects of the design, including leading individual systems meetings, but also helped garner more than one hundred thousand dollars of support from nearly 20 corporate and university sponsors, including Siemens, Northrop Grumman, and Baltimore Gas and Electric. "The great thing about this team is that everyone involved has learned something new—from machining to various software programs—to help us succeed," says Robinson-Tillenburg.





ROBINSON-TILLENBURG



DEMMERLE



GERRETY



BLISKOVSKY



PHOTOS COURTESY ALLA BLISKOVSKY

GOMEZ-BUSTILLO

# **College Powers Solar Jobs with Renewable Energy Park**

The College is building a first-of-its-kind Renewable Energy Park at the Rockville Campus that will provide both theoretical and practical training in wind and solar technology, not only to Montgomery College students, but also to the greater community.

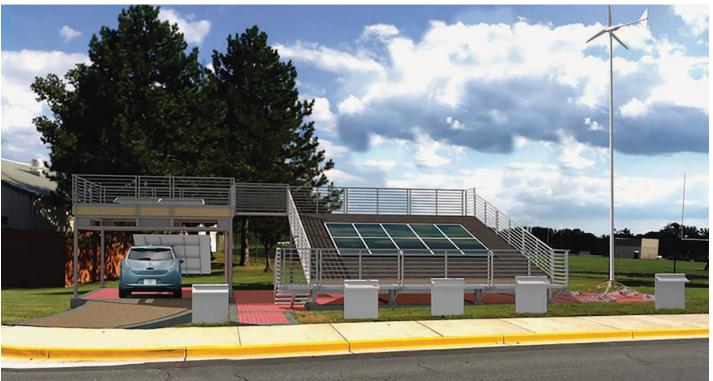
The outdoor classroom enables students to learn valuable skills that are currently in demand in Maryland—and beyond. The park will provide a platform for teaching the installation of solar arrays in multiple configurations. The facility provides a variety of mounting platforms that mirror commercial, industrial, and residential applications. A wind turbine pad provides training and instruction in operation and installation of this renewable technology. The facility also houses a small carport and charging station for the Nissan Leaf electric vehicle that is part of the automotive technologies program.

What started as a campus teaching facility evolved into a venue for community engagement and education. In addition to the community at large, the College welcomes partners in the public schools to use the park as a teaching tool to expand awareness of approaches to sustainable design and implementation.

Faculty, staff, and other stakeholders drafted the initial criteria for the proposed facility. Partners from local industry, the College administration, and faculty and staff members collaborated extensively, donating time, talent, and expertise to realize the final design.

The significant need for qualified employees at companies engaged in renewable energy led to the development of the park. College Dean of Applied Technologies Ed Roberts says, "Last year, Montgomery County had more than 900 solar jobs, making the county the largest employer in Maryland. In an industry on the upswing, Montgomery College will help increase the number of trained installers and service technicians." "Last year, Montgomery County had more than 900 solar jobs, making the county the largest employer in Maryland."

ED ROBERTS, DEAN OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGIES



# **College and Infosys Public Services Form Partnership**

Montgomery College is collaborating with Infosys Public Services on a partnership that creates new training and job opportunities in the information technology (IT) sector.

Infosys Public Services, a global leader in the public sector IT industry based in Rockville, worked closely with Montgomery College faculty to develop an eight-week intensive "boot camp" for recent Infosys hires.

# Infosys<sup>®</sup> Public Services

"We integrated the training Infosys provides to its new hires in India with the customized training Montgomery College offers to create a uniquely focused package," says Steve Greenfield, dean of instruction for business, information technology, and safety under Workforce Development and Continuing Education.

The 320-hour customized Java training prepares the new employees, who are recent college graduates or career changers with theoretical training in computer science, with the applied software skills and latest technology to succeed in the IT workforce. More than 120 Infosys employees have been enrolled in the customized training. "Through joint discussions, Infosys decided that MC was an excellent partner to help build our program," says Infosys Talent Acquisition Lead Candice Bristow. "Not only do they provide quality students who are prepared to work in the IT industry, but they also provide us with trainers and facilities to provide our campus hires with the business acumen and additional IT skills needed in this market."

Building on their partnership, Infosys is working as a technology partner (along with Atlantech Online, Attronica, and VariQ) with MC to bring federal grant money into Maryland to boost both the technology sector and the local economy.

The \$4 million TechHire grant, awarded in June 2016 to the College, offers training and support leading to middle- and high-skilled IT jobs for special populations that face barriers to training and employment opportunities, particularly those with limited English proficiency. The IT training consists of three pathways: information and support services, networking, and programming and software.



#### **College Budget Gets Boost from Montgomery County**

Montgomery College's FY17 budget got a \$6.5 million boost from Montgomery County—a 5.1 percent increase over last year's contribution allowing the College to advance programs that enhance student achievement, including the Achieving Collegiate Excellence and Success (ACES) program and the Achieving the Promise Academy.

"Through joint discussions,

an excellent partner to help

INFOSYS TALENT ACQUISITION LEAD

build our program."

CANDICE BRISTOW

Infosys decided that MC was

The funds will also enable the College to open the Early Learning Laboratory on the Germantown Campus to enhance the teacher education program. Also included in the approved budget is funding for scholarships to support students in the Maryland Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (MI-BEST) program. The county also provided \$1 million in funding to enhance scholarships. These investments are vital to keeping the College affordable while closing the achievement gap.

The county council voted to provide resources to construct the Student Services

Center on the Rockville Campus; the renovation of the Science and Applied Studies Building on the Germantown Campus; and the design of the Math and Science Building on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. Overall, the county has invested \$333,268,000 in the College's capital improvements program over six years.

The state also supported the College's efforts, contributing an additional \$2.2 million in aid for FY17.

montgomerycollege.edu/insights

# Montgomery College Awarded \$1.1 Million TRIO Grant to Improve Adult College Readiness

Montgomery College is one of only three organizations in Maryland awarded a TRIO Educational Opportunity Centers (TRIO EOC) grant to improve adult college readiness. The College will receive \$1,184,500 over a five-year period.

Working closely with several community partners, TRIO EOC will assist at least 1,000 first-generation, low-income, nonpostsecondary education degree holders as well as veterans and their families in Montgomery County. Staff members at the center will help eligible individuals by guiding them through the college enrollment process (including admission and financial aid applications), helping them prepare for placement exams, and leading them through course registration. The project staff will also provide academic and career counseling. "Over the past 15 years, TRIO EOC has helped thousands of county residents fulfill their educational and career aspirations," says Melissa Gregory, associate senior vice president for student affairs. Gregory says this is the fourth TRIO EOC grant the College has received since 2002.

In addition to assisting with the college enrollment process, the TRIO EOC will offer GED counseling and will provide the Official Practice GED Test at no cost to participants. Other services include workshops and individual counseling to increase financial and economic literacy.

"Over the past 15 years, TRIO EOC has helped thousands of county residents fulfill their educational and career aspirations."

# STAFF NEWS

Randy Steiner, AIA, coordinator of the architecture program at Montgomery College, recently earned the Paul H. Kea Medal, the highest honor given by the AIA Potomac Valley, a chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Professor Steiner has been the coordinator of the architecture program at MC for more than 25 years. Her passion for teaching motivated her to create the Coalition of Community College Architecture Programs in 2012 to widen the pathway and increase diversity within the architectural profession. Potomac Valley and the affiliated Potomac Valley Architecture Foundation recognized her for the many leadership offices she has held with AIA, as well as her success in creating partnerships for the College with regional schools of architecture and the design community.

The Paul H. Kea Medal recognizes architects or non-architects in related fields who have made a significant and exemplary contribution to the profession, either through a body of work or a single contribution of great scope.

MELISSA GREGORY, ASSOCIATE SENIOR VP FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS



# What will your legacy be? Bequest: Make a Difference for Future Students

You can change the course of a student's life by including Montgomery College in your estate plans with a bequest. After you ensure that your family is taken care of, you can name Montgomery College as residuary beneficiary of your estate. Find out how simple it is to leave your legacy. Call us today.

Montgomery College Foundation • Francene T. Walker, CFRE francene.walker@montgomerycollege.edu • 240-567-7491

"My days at MC were significant in shaping my future, and I'm pleased to provide for future students through my trust." — Marcia Meltzer, alumna

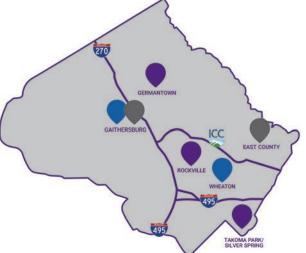
# **MONTGOMERY COLLEGE BY THE NUMBERS**

# 56,000 **STUDENTS**

Maryland's largest community college

# LOCATIONS IN THE COUNTY

- 3 Campuses
- 2 Training Sites
- 2 Community **Engagement Centers**



# **53%**

MC students who receive financial aid

# \$27,000

Average household income for federal Pell grant recipients



Montgomery County Public Schools graduates who stay in state for college attend MC

MC students who attend part time



Average student age



# 115

#### Degree and certificate programs

From mechanics to engineers and lab bench workers to scientists: we fuel the economy

## DIVERSE STUDENT COMMUNITY

32%	Black
<b>27%</b>	Latino
<b>25%</b>	White
14%	Asian

2% Multi-race

160+ Countries represented



# <sup>\$</sup>4,902

#### yearly tuition & fees

The most affordable higher education option for county residents

Faculty members named Maryland Professor of the Year in the past twelve years

#### quality in classrooms

# **OUR MISSION**

We empower students to change their lives, and we enrich the life of our community. We are accountable for our results.





Photos from the World of Montgomery Festival 2016



# **Opening Pathways to MC via Multilingual Outreach**

Community engagement at MC means informing, consulting, participating, working in partnership, and reaching out to people who may not have thought of themselves as college students. The Office of Community Engagement recently published a report on how it is meeting that mission.

"There is almost no area of Montgomery College untouched by the work of the community engagement teams," says President DeRionne Pollard. "All of this activity is, of course, aimed at inclusion. I have been talking all year about the idea of 'radical inclusion' and how we must push beyond our comfort zones to connect with people who are speakers of languages other than English, first-generation college attendees, and even K through 12 students who are struggling academically."

With limited English proficient residents comprising approximately 15 percent (more than 130,000 residents) of the county's population\*, the College has been reaching out through several methods. The Community Engagement Center promotes programs and activities across cable TV, social media, and e-newsletters in multiple languages. It also launched a Facebook page and Twitter account, as well as MC Latino, a Facebook page in Spanish. Its Amharic videos are the College's top 20 most viewed.

The College continues to produce a Spanish language radio and TV show, entitled "Mi Escuela es Su Escuela," on Radio America 1540 AM. Twenty-four radio shows and 12 TV shows last year conveyed key information about MC topics and events.

In 2015, the College contracted with a translation service to offer in-person interpretation services, as well as written translation services for many languages. The service is also available to College departments for translating documents, such as brochures and flyers, into multiple languages or for in-person interpreters at College events.

Community Engagement Center specialists speak multiple languages, providing access for people who speak English, Spanish, Amharic, and Arabic, as well as many more languages through an over-the-phone interpretation line.

New partnerships with Latino parents and students at Montgomery Village and Neelsville middle schools involved youth in activities that promote school engagement and connection. The four-day-a-week program included sessions in study skills leadership training, service learning, and character development skills. Each school had a cohort of more than 30 Latino students. At monthly parent program meetings, College staff presented on various topics, including access, admissions, financial aid, Workforce Development and Continuing Education programs, college support services, and youth programs. Events on campusincluding tours and short presentationsgave families opportunities to become more familiar with campus facilities and try out college courses.

At the annual World of Montgomery Festival in October, nearly 7,000 people visited the Rockville Campus to celebrate the county's multicultural population. The festival included exhibits on the four countries with the largest immigrant populations in Montgomery County: China, El Salvador, Ethiopia, and India.

#### **RAPTOR NOTES**

RENDERING BY AMALIE ELFALLAH AND KAIRA FARRELL





# **Architecture Students Receive Industry Awards**

Amalie ElFallah '16 and Kaira Farrell '16 recently earned honors for excellence in student architectural design by the Maryland Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). The AIA selected 10 winners from among 74 projects submitted; entrants included community college, undergraduate, and graduate students.

ElFallah's "East Brunswick Islamic Center" (East Brunswick, NJ) received the highest award for community college students. The jury said ElFallah used "form, materials, space, and light to great advantage to communicate the spiritual nature of the building." They also praised her use of materials "borrowed from Muslim traditions while offering contemporary design solutions."

ElFallah also received a jury citation, along with Kaira Farrell, for "Spectrum Urban Streetscape," an open outdoor office space. The jury noted the "design provides an

opportunity to reimagine the role that a column, wall, opening, roof, and enclosure play...in the work environment."

"I am so proud of our students-and our architecture faculty are in the enviable position of [nurturing] the growth and development of emerging talents year after year," Shorieh Talaat, professor of architecture, says. "The awards and scholarships students receive from our industry associations and partners are a testament to the dedication and passion for learning that Montgomery College has instilled in them from day one."

Talaat's nurturing may account, in large part, for the students' success, as both projects were completed in his Introduction to Architectural Design class.

ElFallah and Farrell are continuing their studies in architecture at the University of Maryland.



Rankings are based on a comprehensive school-by-school survey of veteran and military student offerings and rates of academic achievement. Moreover, the three veterans featured in the cover photo are Montgomery College students and alumni. Air Force veteran Ronnie Chang and Army veterans Jacob Bialeschki and Maurice Valentine (shown on the left) were photographed by Pete Vidal, Montgomery College photographer.

Montgomery College earned a top-20 ranking as Best for Vets at









PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL SIMONE

# Women's Soccer Team Wins Region Championship

The women's soccer team defeated Howard Community College 2–1 in the Region XX tournament to claim the 2016 Region XX/District H Championship on October 30.

The Raptors capped a 14-game winning streak with their championship victory. MC has outscored their opponents 91–10, scoring an average of 5.35 goals per game, and taking 21 shots per game. Nathaly Alvear leads the nation in assists with 28 and her teammate, Arielle Amaguana, is tied for second with 15 assists.

In the championship game, the Howard Community College Dragons scored early, and the Raptors trailed 1–0 at halftime. Howard's defense made it difficult for the Raptors to get quality shots off or pass the ball cleanly. But in the 69th minute, Alvear served up a ball off a free kick that Gaelin Hirabayashi headed into the goal to tie the game. Ten minutes later, Amaguana dribbled the ball through the defense and got off a clean shot that found the back of the net.

Josselyn Flores, Ariella Amaguana, Alejandra Ramos, and Jennifer Pineda were named to the All-Tournament Team.

The Raptors traveled to Toms River, New Jersey, to compete in the NJCAA DIII Women's Soccer National Championship November 10–13. After a first-round win, the team lost two close games, finishing fourth in the nation.



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MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

PART ONE OF A TWO-PART SERIES CELEBRATING MONTGOMERY COLLEGE'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

BBBB

# ~at~"FIRST JUNIOR COLLEGE IN THE STATE"

"Veterans... included some of the best students I ever had in a class. They were serious about their education. They were older and more mature than those coming straight from high school.... Courses that might prove difficult for them were not evaded or dropped...The interaction of dedicated people, faculty and students, resulted, I like to believe, in a firm mutual respect which made teaching and learning a gratifying experience."

-Professor Allen H. Jones, From Acorn to Oak

ANNIVERSARY

Delcome

n September 16, 1946, Montgomery Junior College held its first classes in the evenings at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School with a student body of 186 students (151 men and 35 women), and eight faculty, including its first administrator, dean Hugh Price. Tuition in 1946 was \$150 per semester for county residents and \$175 for out-of-county students. Classes had to be held after 4 p.m. on weekdays after high school activities concluded, and on Saturday mornings. Many of the College's first students were World War II veterans.

Events on the world stage a year earlier predicated the College's rapid launch in 1946. Germany surrendered on May 10, 1945, followed by Japan's surrender in September that year. With the war essentially over, the US armed forces started to dismantle operations in Europe and the Pacific. More than 12 million service men and women in international theatres queued up for demobilization. With the GI Bill (Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944) signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in June 1944, many returning veterans had something they never had before: the ability to pay for a college education.

More than two million veterans enthusiastically claimed their higher-education benefit. As a result, universities and colleges across the country quickly filled to capacity; nonveterans, women, and recent high school graduates were often left to seek employment or delay college goals.

To increase opportunities for all Marylanders, Governor Herbert R. O'Conor appointed a Commission of Higher Education to establish two-year public institutions, "a chain of junior colleges throughout the state." An ad hoc committee identified a need for a junior college in Montgomery County. With a \$10,000 grant from Maryland's Department of Education, and matching funds from Montgomery County, the county's Board of Education acted quickly to open Montgomery Junior College for the fall semester—just months after receiving funding.

More than half of the students who enrolled at MJC that first fall semester were veterans. Their numbers bestowed an important benefit to the College: it qualified for war surplus supplies under the Veterans' Educational Facilities Program.

Culling goods from government lists, MJC furnished and equipped classrooms and laboratories. Items included: an autoclave, instrument sterilizers, thermometers, typewriters, adding machines, tables, chairs, and desks. "[Goods] came through to College Park in box cars on long freight trains and were stacked on the station platform," recalled founding faculty member Dr. Bernice F. Pierson in a written history of the College.

During the summer months leading up to its opening, Pierson recruited for the new school by posting announcements and going door to door to homes of recent high school graduates. "We spent a good deal of time pinning notices of biology and other subject offerings on the bulletin boards of the National Institutes of Health and the US Navy Medical Buildings."

MJC's first students chose from 10 academic programs, including transfer programs with courses typically offered in the first two years of a baccalaureate degree (pre-medicine, pre-dentistry, pre-law); terminal programs comprising "technical-occupational" courses (secretarial and business); and "courses of a general cultural nature," (art, music, and liberal arts).

Established as a night school, the College adopted the moniker, "Knights," for its athletic teams and newspaper (*Knights Quest*). Extracurricular activities that first year included Drama Club, Variety Club, "M" Club, Swimming Club, varsity basketball, varsity football, and cheering squad. The school's first official colors were burgundy and gold.

Enrollment doubled when the College added a sophomore class in 1947. Dean Price acquired two military surplus structures, "BOQs" (bachelor officers' quarters) relocated from Fort Washington. The structures housed biology and chemistry labs, faculty and administrative offices, a bookstore, and a student lounge.

In 1948, 25 graduates received associate of arts degrees at the College's first commencement ceremony. According to the Office of Institutional Research and Analysis, more than three quarters of a million students have taken at least one course at MC since 1946. Today's enrollment averages 60,000 annually, including credit and noncredit students of all ages.

Sources: From Acorn to Oak and "MC History" Dr. Tom Walker, '57 history professor; "The Montgomery County Story," by William C. Strasser Jr. for Montgomery Coulty Historical Society, quarterly, August 1992. Montgomery College, Maryland's First Community College, 1946–1970, William Fox.



# Pop (Culture) Quiz

WORLD SERIES 1946

G.I. BILL OF RIGHTS







#### 1. Who was US president in 1946?

a) Harry S. Truman b) Franklin D. Roosevelt

- c) Herbert Hoover
- d) Dwight D. Eisenhower
- 2. Who was the country's vice president in 1946?
  - a) Harry S. Truman
  - b) No one
  - c) Theodore Roosevelt
  - d) Henry Wallace

#### 3. Which of these events also occurred in 1946?

- a) First meeting of United Nations general assembly
- b) Winston Churchill's speech warning of "cold war" with Russia
- c) St. Louis Cardinals won the World Series in baseball
- d) The US Army made radar contact with the moon for the first time
- e) All of the above

#### 4. What was life expectancy in the US in 1946?

a) 66.7 years b) 77.94 years c) 59.7 years d) 62.9 years

#### 5. Which products were introduced to **US consumers?**

a) bikinis b) Tupperware c) bank-issued credit cards d) ranch-style homes e) all of the above

### 6. Which film won the Oscar for Best Picture in 1946?

- a) It's a Wonderful Life
- b) The Razor's Edge
- c) The Yearling
- d) The Best Years of Our Lives
- e) none of the above



a) The Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care by Dr. Benjamin Spock

A671755

- **b)** *Hiroshima* by John Hersey
- c) All the King's Men by Robert Penn Warren
- d) Brideshead Revisited by Evelyn Waugh
- e) all of the above

#### 8. Which Broadway show opened to critical acclaim in 1946?

- a) The King and I
- b) Peter Pan
- c) Brigadoon
- d) Porgie and Bess
- e) Annie Get Your Gun

#### 9. Which medical item became widely available for the first time?

- a) adhesive bandages
- b) aspirin
- c) penicillin
- d) syringes
- e) all of the above

#### 10. Which hit artist and song topped the Billboard music chart in 1946?

- a) Frank Sinatra "Five Minutes More"
- b) Bing Crosby "White Christmas"
- c) Perry Como "Prisoner of Love"
- d) The Andrews Sisters "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy"
- e) Dinah Shore "Baby It's Cold Outside"



Answers: 1a 2b 3e 4a 5e 6d 7e 8e 9c 10c





## "Life asked death,

'Why do people love me but hate you?'

Death responded,

'Because you are a beautiful lie

and I am a painful truth."

-Author unknown

# Unfinished Business



ew people are comfortable talking about death—let alone preparing for it. But procrastination doesn't do any good, says author, speaker, and funeral planning expert Gail Rubin '78. Through her radio talk shows, books, blogs, and speaking events, Rubin helps people start conversations about the taboo topic.

"Just as talking about sex won't make you pregnant," says Rubin, "talking about funerals won't make you dead—and your family will benefit from the conversation."

Funeral industry research indicates only 25 to 30 percent of adults do any funeral planning or end-of-life preparation, including wills. Rubin's goal is to increase that number to 70 percent readiness. Her target demographic is the 77 million Baby Boomers (adults born between 1946 and 1964), of whom she is a member.

During her time as the Doyenne\* of Death<sup>®</sup>, a certified thanatologist (death educator), and funeral celebrant, Rubin has helped hundreds make final exit plans.

"It's not morbid. It's a consumer issue," says Rubin. "A funeral is one of the top five event expenses a family will incur, similar on scale to weddings and bar mitzvahs—but it remains the party no one wants to plan."

Without directives or experience, surviving family members are often faced with making decisions in an area they know little about. They contact the local funeral home and the newspaper, but they have no idea what anything is going to cost. Some may guess about what the deceased would have wanted, or worse yet, may overspend out of guilt. Some refuse services based on costs. Like any life event with a significant financial impact, getting price quotes and shopping around can pay off—in savings and peace of mind.

"It's so much easier to talk about finances, insurance, and disposal of body options when death seems far away and you can still laugh about it," says Rubin.

Burial plots that cost \$1,000 30 years ago in Virginia, where her parents bought, now cost \$5,000. Interment expenses (opening and closing the grave, a liner, marker, etc.) may add another \$3,000 or more. Cremations recently surpassed the 50 percent rate for the first time in the United States, and Rubin believes cost is a contributing factor. Baby Boomers are

## BY Diane Bosser

PHOTOGRAPHY BY Pete Vidal

\*A doyenne is an older woman who has experience in or knowledge about a particular area.





Rubin (top) at her public speaking event, "Laughing in the Face of Death: Funny Films for Funeral Planning" (center) Rubin's style choices for events reflect her unique take on talking about death. Instead of traditional business attire she takes the platform in black cowboy boots with skulls and roses and a western-style leather belt adorned with silver skulls.

# "Modern medicine is good, but there is still a 100-percent mortality rate." -Gail Rubin

showing interest in trends like green funerals and home funerals, for reasons that include environmental sensitivity, cost, and level of participation. The growing menu of options drives the need for conversation like never before.

Rubin discovered the public's interest in funeral and estate planning while writing a monthly feature for the *Albuquerque Tribune*. Her "Matchings, Hatchings, and Dispatchings" articles drew more reader response than those on wedding planning and other celebratory life events. She published her first book, *A Good Goodbye: Funeral Planning for Those Who Don't Plan to Die*, in 2010. It received the Best of Show award in the 2011 New Mexico Book Awards and was a finalist in the family and relationships category of the national Book of the Year Awards.

A former C-SPAN producer and TV, film, and radio major, Rubin expanded her reach with technology: AGoodGoodbye.com website, a YouTube channel, a 12-episode TV series, and a podcast on FuneralRadio.com. For her blog, "The Family Plot," and her own edification, Rubin challenged herself to attend 30 funerals in 30 days a few years ago. "I witnessed pretty amazing things," she says.

At a biker funeral paid for by the Bandido Motorcycle Club, a procession of 78 bikers followed the deceased, a Navy veteran, from the funeral in Albuquerque to the national cemetery in Santa Fe. The hearse was a three-wheeled motorcycle pulling a glasssided trailer. She also attended a memorial luncheon at a bowling alley bar. Friends of the deceased planned the event when they learned his family was not going to hold any kind of service.

"People don't always realize that funerals are for the living," says Rubin. "When someone says they don't really care about what happens when they go, think of all the different circles of influence we have. When the fabric of our lives gets torn, people from all those circles come together. It can be quite moving."

Rubin also urges people to deal with their worldly goods before it's too late. In her latest book, *KICKING THE BUCKET LIST*: 100 Downsizing and Organizing Things to Do Before You Die, she lists specific ways her readers can face their parents' estates and their own downsizing. With wisdom from the Buddha, the Bible, estate planners, funeral directors, and the Internet, her advice includes "Appraise the House," "Minimize the Multiples," and "Cut Down on Kitchen Crap."

"Even people who plan to live forever might plan to move at some point. Depending on where you're going," she says, "you can't take it with you."

On a recent visit to Rockville, Rubin spoke at Congregation Beth Ami. Her "Laughing in the Face of Death" talk was part of the congregation's monthly Live and Learn speaker series. Her attire for the evening event—a tailored blouse paired with a skullaccented leather belt and black Lucchese cowboy boots with inlaid skulls and roses hints at her signature approach to discussing death: with humor.

She opens with a short video she calls "the sizzle reel." She has produced a series of videos with scenes from TV programs and major Hollywood films, including *Monty Python, The Princess Bride, Young Frankenstein, The Six Wives of Henry Lefay, Elizabethtown, The Bucket List,* and *About Schmidt.* Through clips from famously funny scenes, Rubin exposes the elephant in the room without saying a word.

"Scenes like the one from *The Big Lebowski*," she says, "where John Goodman scatters the ashes, allows us to laugh. Laughter, as we know, releases endorphins into the bloodstream, which relieves stress. It just helps everyone relax before we get to the serious business ahead."

The scene in which the Lou Grant character in *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* tells his newsroom pals: 'I don't want anybody to make a fuss. When I go, I just want to be stood outside in the garbage with my hat on,' opens the door to making wishes known.

When the lights come up, Rubin grabs the crowd's attention:

"Modern medicine is good," she tells them, "but there is still a 100-percent mortality rate."

Read Gail Rubin's memorial to former MC classmate and Spur student newspaper cartoonist Richard Thompson '78, on page 44.



Rubin makes her advice portable a la books, DVD, and even a T-shirt ("All men [and women] are cremated equal").

# Downsize and Organize for a Better Life and a Better Death

# 5 Tips on What You Need to Know to Save Money, Time, and Sanity

#### **By Gail Rubin**

- 1. **Empty storage units.** Did you rent a storage unit to "temporarily" store some mustkeep items that didn't have a place in your home? Take a hard look at what's in those units. Are those items even worth the rent? Clear out the unit, close the account, and save yourself some money.
- 2. Give goods to charities. Selling household goods, whether through yard sales, online sites, or flea markets is hard work. The money earned may not make it worth your time and trouble. Popular charities may pick up donations from your home and provide receipts that serve as proof for tax deductions.
- 3. Make a personal contact list. When time is of the essence, can you easily assemble the names, addresses, emails, and phone numbers of people who need to be contacted? Mom's dog-eared personal phone book used to hold all that information, but now cell phones, social media, tablets, and computers complicate contacting the people who matter most. Create a master contact list of information that identifies family, friends, work contacts, medical, financial, and legal professionals, and other people who need to know when someone dies. Print out several copies and share with key family members.
- 4. Label who's to get what. If you want to pass particular items on to specific family members or friends, label those items with their names. Write a list of these objects and the recipients, then sign and date the list. Referencing this list in will or trust documents make these designations legally binding. Better yet, give family heirlooms while you're still alive.

5. Shop before you drop. Before someone

"kicks the bucket," learn what you need

to know today. Visit several local funeral

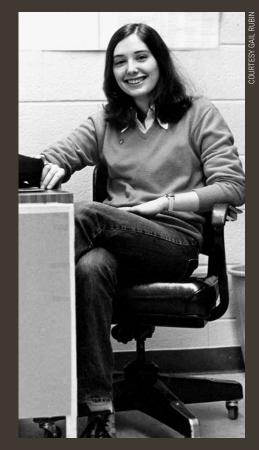
homes to find out disposition options and costs. It's so much easier to investigate

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your choices while death seems distant and you can still laugh about it.

Tips here excerpted from her newest book, *KICKING THE BUCKET LIST: 100 Downsizing & Organizing Things to Do Before You Die* (Rio Grande Books, Los Ranchos, NM, 2016). The book's 100 entries include links to Internet articles that expand each point. The book supports the work of the nonprofit National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPC) and the National Hospice Foundation.

For even more planning and information, sign up for Rubin's free organizer/planning form, Executor Checklist, her Family Plot blog, and email tips at AGoodGoodbye.com.



Gail Rubin was features editor of *The Spur* from 1977 to 1978.

# More About the Doyenne of Death<sup>®</sup>

1978 graduate of MC (radio, TV, and film), Rubin worked as a TV producer with C-SPAN on Capitol Hill, booking guests for the network's call-in program. In 1985, she transitioned into public relations and moved to New Mexico in 1990. She has written a total of four books (two award-winning), hosted a TV series on the local public access channel (Albuquerque), and was a TEDxABQ speaker on end-of-life planning. She created the Newly-Dead Game® (2011), based on elements of the Newlywed Game TV show, which tests couples' knowledge of their partner's last wishes. Currently, she hosts a podcast, FuneralRadio.com, and conducts numerous seminars and speaking engagements. She has lived in Albuquerque for 26 years. She is also a breast cancer survivor.

# competitive

### By Fritzi Bodenheimer Photography by Robin Ritoss





(Above) World-class competitors, students Quinn Carpenter (left) and Michael Parsons (and their partners) enjoy camaraderie and genuine friendship on and off the ice. Michael and Rachel Parsons (left), brother-and-sister ice dancing team, rehearse daily. The pairs often train together in Wheaton, Maryland.

s a kid, biology major Michael Parsons told his mother he wanted to play ice hockey. She agreed but insisted he learn to figure skate first so he would have strong skills on the ice. He has not stopped skating since. At the 2016 World Junior Championship, Parsons won the silver medal for ice dancing with his sister and partner, Rachel.

Parsons was not the only MC student on the medal stand that day. The gold medal went to Quinn Carpenter and his partner, Lorraine McNamara. Carpenter is a mechanical engineering major, and he and Parsons are good friends—and competitors.

"Unlike other sports, skating is not you against the other person. When you do your program for the judges, you are not doing it with the other teams on the ice. It's you and the judges. So we can keep our friendly relationship and still compete as hard as we possibly can," says Parsons.



Longtime skating partners Quinn Carpenter and Lorraine McNamara (above) incorporate movements from various dance styles into their choreography. (Below) Carpenter and McNamara won the 2016 World Junior Champions in Debrecen, Hungary, last March. Carpenter is a mechanical engineering major at the College.



To get ready for those competitions, Parsons and Carpenter have jam-packed days—and nights—juggling classes, workouts, and rehearsals. They joke that anything past 6 a.m. is considered sleeping in. Most days they practice early in the morning, take classes, and head home to study, eat and, if time allows, a nap. Then it is back to work.

In addition to practice on the ice, the skaters also do strength and endurance training, and take ballet several times a week. And that's not all.

"Every year our routines incorporate different rhythms and dance styles, which we have to perform on the ice. So we supplement with ballroom or other dance training, and then put those kinds of movements on the ice," Carpenter says.

The skaters must also perform required elements—Carpenter describes them as a "choreographed specific set of steps" that contribute to the technical merit of the program. "Of course you want to make that look as graceful as possible without looking like you are concentrating on it," he says.

And what about those lifts? "In the beginning when we first learn the lifts, there is a little bit of nervousness because you are getting used to where your body has to be, where you have to hold your partner, where your partner has to be. But once you get used to it, you are repeating the lift hundreds of times over a year, so it becomes muscle memory and you don't really get nervous about it," Parsons says.

Skaters and their partners are the only two people on the ice, but behind the scenes about a dozen people prepare the duos for competitions. The skaters say family members are a huge help. They also benefit from the expertise of a costume designer, a hip-hop teacher, two ballet teachers, one ballroom dance instructor, one gyrotonics (yoga for dancers) instructor, a theater coach, two strength and conditioning experts—and four on-ice coaches.

In addition to the technical training all of the coaches provide, they also give the skaters something else. "I think one of the biggest things we have learned from skating and from our coaches is discipline. That



(Left to right) Michael and Rachel Parsons, Lorraine McNamara, and Quinn Carpenter share a common goal: representing the United States in the Winter Olympics. (Below) Rachel and Michael Parsons (biology major), from Rockville, Maryland, represent the Washington Figure Skating Club and Team USA. They have skated competitively since the ages of six and seven.

applies to everything—especially academics. You need the discipline to sit down and study if even if you want to go out with friends," Parsons says. "There are a lot of those mornings when you wake up and you just want to stay in bed, but that's just part of it. We have a goal we are trying to reach."

That goal is the Olympics.

Carpenter says while the games are a big dream for the future, they have to focus on today. "We always remember that as a goal, that place we're trying to go, but of course right now we are concentrating on doing the best we can in the moment—because if you don't improve now there will never be a way to get there."

Still, he adds, "If there is something you are passionate about, if you believe in yourself and love what you do you can go really far with it."





By Fritzi Bodenheimer Photography by Grace Gladhill

# Professor on Patrol

A t 6 a.m. on a bitter-cold Saturday morning in February, Ed Riggs '69 is behind the wheel of his Honda Civic for the

hour-long drive from his home in Maryland to Liberty Mountain Resort in Pennsylvania. As a senior member of the ski patrol team, he will spend the day monitoring the mountain, preventing accidents, and instructing new patrol officers. It is a seemingly exhausting routine, but one Riggs has repeated every Saturday, Sunday—and Monday—for well over two decades—because he says, there is nothing else like it.

"You are outdoors. The air is very clean and crisp. We get to the mountain top in the morning—and it's a beautiful sunrise. That's what it is all about." Those snowy Pennsylvania mountains are a long way from the classroom where Professor Riggs spends the rest of the week. He teaches digital photo editing and restoration courses and serves as chair of the Media Arts and Technology Department at Montgomery College. Riggs, who has been teaching at the College since 1979, was recognized for his dedication to MC with the Milton F. Clogg Outstanding Alumni Award. His students—and some of his colleagues—have no idea that he has a second career on the slopes.

Riggs is quick to point out his two jobs are not so different. He spends much of

"i settled on ski patrol because i thought, well here's an opportunity. i can learn more, help people, and still enjoy doing what i love."

Ed Riggs

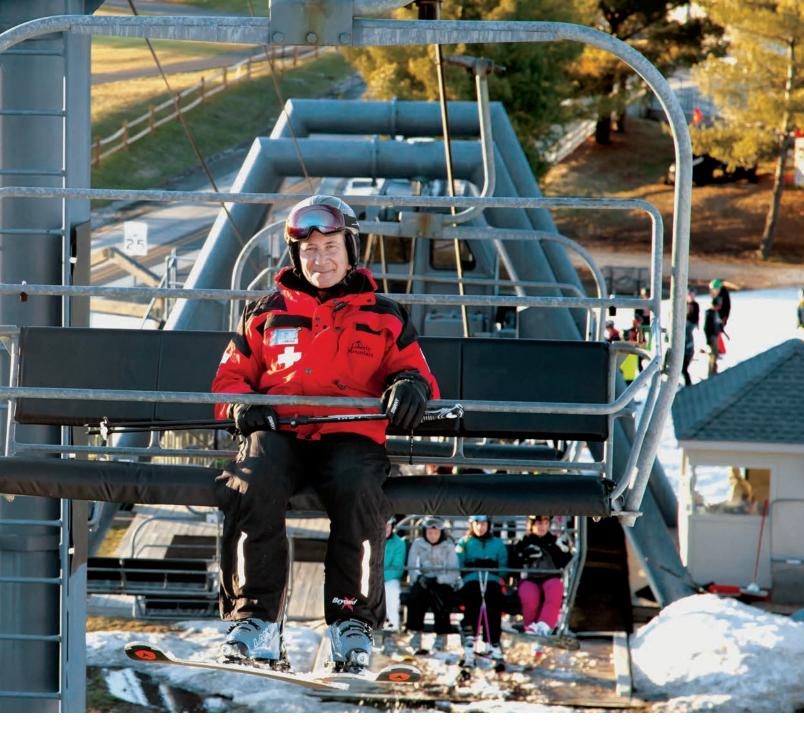




his weekend training other patrol members on ski techniques and emergency medicine, and he has published materials on training and mentoring ski instructors. "Everything we use here at Montgomery College, we use there: Bloom's Taxonomy and outcomes, for example [a classification system teachers use to gauge levels of learning]. It is all the same principles."

Steve Sobolewski is the ski patrol director at Ski Liberty, but when he first joined the team, Riggs was his instructor. "He was excellent. His teaching abilities from the classroom made him a good instructor for sports." Riggs's passion for skiing, like teaching, is evident. "He's been around for many years, but still goes to classes to maintain his competency level," Sobolewski says. "I am in charge of 140 patrollers, but very few are as dedicated."

Riggs learned to ski in his twenties, and from there his enthusiasm grew. "I am very active so winter time posed a real issue, and essentially that drove my passion for skiing." He quickly realized skiing can be an expensive sport, so Riggs decided to become a part of the industry. "I settled on ski patrol because I thought, well here's an opportunity. I can learn more, help people, and still enjoy doing what I love."



On a busy weekend day, Riggs says there may be up to 30 visitors who need first aid for everything from knee and shoulder injuries to frostbite and hypothermia. Ever the instructor, he says there a few simple things everyone can do to prevent these common injuries. Skip the blue jeans and wear waterproof clothes. Learn the basics including stopping, falling safely—and yes, how to get up. And a strong core and strong legs are a must for skiers, especially as they advance to more expert terrain.

And the professor practices what he teaches. Riggs bicycles during the summer, and in preparation for the ski season spends

time in the gym working almost exclusively on his legs. "I try to get to the point where I can do squats with 400 pounds, 100 times (ten sets of ten)," says Riggs, who is in his sixties.

Even after all these years—and a few injuries including separated shoulders and a damaged "gamekeepers" thumb (also known as skier's thumb or UCL tear)—Riggs still finds new challenges on the slopes and has no plans to slow down. While he admits to being a bit tired on Tuesday mornings—his shift Monday night lasts until well after 10 p.m.—Riggs says a day skiing on the mountain is invigorating. These days he is attracted to mogul skiing. "No matter how good you are, you are not going to have a perfect mogul run. Two years ago, I cracked two ribs skiing moguls, but I just have to do it."

And this winter will be no exception. Riggs plans to be back on the mountain for as long as the season lasts and—slipping back into his role as a teacher—encourages everyone to join him. "I have friends who are over 80 and they still ski. We have blind skiers visit nearly every week and wounded warriors, too. It is never too late to learn, and anyone can do it." On April 20, 1999, Eric Harris, 17, and Dylan Klebold, 18, shot and killed 12 fellow students and one teacher, injuring another 21, before they both committed suicide at Columbine High School in Colorado. At the time, it was recorded as the deadliest high school shooting in US history.















By Jill Fitzgerald | Photography by Pete Vidal



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In the more recent incidents, active assailants no longer intend to hold hostages, but rather, they consider their victims doomed captives. These individuals want to increase the standoff, increase the media attention—and increase the fear.

—Bob Bolesta Commander, Special Operations Division (Retired) Montgomery County Police Department In the 17 years since this incident, more than 50 mass murders at school or college have been committed, killing nearly 150 people. Of these school shootings, occurring at a rate of once a week since Columbine, the shooting at Umpqua Community College in Oregon in October 2015 hardened the resolve of Montgomery College officials to reevaluate campus safety measures and procedures for all three campuses and satellite locations.

In a statement to the College community following the Umpqua incident, President DeRionne Pollard wrote, "This tragedy reminds us, once again, that no campus can be entirely protected against violence. However, the Board of Trustees and I consider campus safety to be an essential part of our community fabric—one that deserves the attention of the state, the county, and campus communities."

"The challenge for us then was to make our locations, which are so much a part of the landscape of Montgomery County, safe for all who enter," says Shawn Harrison, Montgomery College's director of public safety. "To accomplish this, we had to be joined at the hip with our local police departments."



COURTESY MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

(Above) Members of the Montgomery County Police Department's Emergency Response Team participate in an active shooter exercise to enhance their skills. (Left) Safety and Security Officer Gabe Latham patrols the Rockville Campus. Latham is one of 64 officers that make up the College's security force. Harrison, a 26-year veteran of the Baltimore City Police Department, Dr. Pollard, and other College officials met with Montgomery County Police Department Chief Tom Manger and other high-ranking officers to discuss security concerns on all three campuses, as well as how the two entities can strengthen their relationship. And police department personnel from the three districts encompassing MC campuses conducted walk-throughs to familiarize themselves with campus and building layouts.

## PREPARATION AND PLANNING

All of the College's campuses have emergency phones and high-resolution cameras in strategic positions. At the walk-throughs, officials focused their attention on creating a "Go Bag" for each campus. A "Go Bag" contains master keys and swipe cards, radios, and other pertinent items beneficial to SWAT teams deployed to an active assailant situation on a campus.

Bob Bolesta, who recently retired as commander of the Montgomery County Police Department's Special Operations Division, says the police department's SWAT personnel work 24/7/365. Centralized and decentralized SWAT team members work in virtually every assignment, on multiple shifts, and in every district of the county. The highly trained officers prepare daily, performing tabletop exercises and field operations, in addition to discussing policy, tactics, and operating procedures with the FBI and other law enforcement agencies.

"There has been a paradigm shift," says Bolesta. "In the more recent incidents, active assailants no longer intend to hold hostages, but rather, they consider their victims doomed captives. These individuals want to increase the standoff, increase the media attention—and increase the fear." Bolesta added that police officers must be prepared for this methodology when responding to active assailant incidents at schools, too.

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I'm glad I didn't cancel [the training] because for the first time in a long time, I felt like I had an idea or a plan of action should the threat become real in my building.... Minutes after completing this message, I learned that my husband was killed while trying to help a victim at Montgomery Mall.

> -Norma Winffel Recruitment Coordinator Germantown Campus

# TIMELY TRAINING

Police and College security personnel agree that quelling the fear includes preparing faculty, staff, and students to respond to an immediate threat. The latest research suggests that, depending on circumstances, individuals should run, or if that is not possible, hide or barricade. When the threat is unavoidable and imminent, they should fight.

Bolesta says 30 Montgomery County police officers have been certified to teach Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE). Officers can provide CRASE training to local businesses, private schools, and other community groups that express an interest. And more than 1,500 Montgomery County Government employees have attended the county's Employee Emergency Preparedness Training in the wake of the November 2015 terrorist attacks in Paris. Likewise, Carlo Sanchez, training coordinator for the College's Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management, received certification to teach Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate (ALICE) training. Nearly 600 College employees registered for training this year.

When the College's ALICE training kicked off this past May 6, Norma Winffel, a recruitment coordinator on the Germantown Campus, attended the first session. When the training ended, she had a phone conversation, albeit brief, with her husband, Mike, who was on his way to lunch with a coworker from the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Bethesda. Minutes later, Mike Winffel was walking through the parking lot at Westfield Montgomery Mall when he encountered a woman screaming and backing away from a gun-wielding assailant. When Winffel threw himself between the gunman and the woman, the gunman fired a shot into Winffel's chest. Shortly thereafter, the College and the county schools were placed on lockdown.

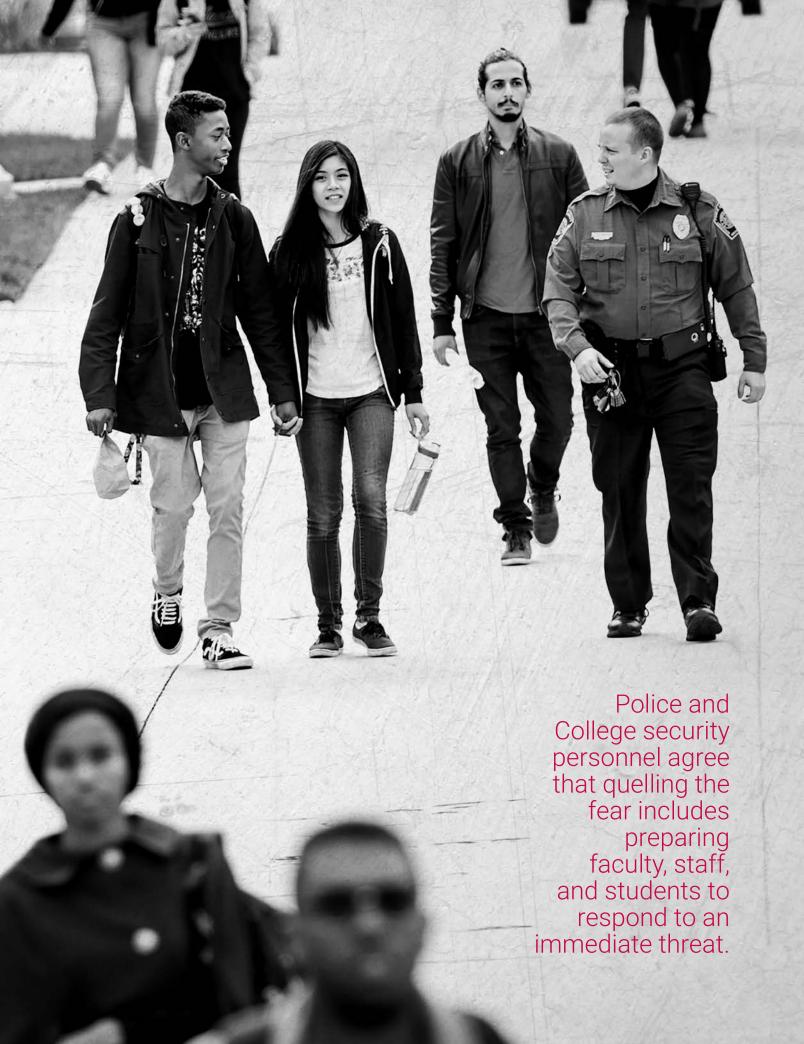
After two tension-filled hours, College and county officials lifted the lockdown when the gunman, later identified as Eulalio Tordil, was arrested. Police say Tordil had killed his wife the day before and had killed another woman in Aspen Hill, Maryland, just after the Westfield Montgomery Mall incident.

Norma Winffel sent her coworkers an email the evening of May 6. She described the training she had just received, writing, "I personally thought about cancelling because I had 'too much to do.' I'm glad I didn't cancel [the training] because for the first time in a long time, I felt like I had an idea or a plan of action should the threat become real in my building." The postscript was chilling: "Minutes after completing this message, I learned that my husband was killed while trying to help a victim at Montgomery Mall."

While training faculty and staff is critical, students remain the number one priority in the event of an emergency. To that end, Sanchez began ALICE training for students on all three campuses in November. Marcus Rosano, the College's director of media and public relations, says the College also encourages students to visit dhs.gov/activeshooter-preparedness and watch Options for Consideration: Active Shooter Preparedness. In early 2017, the College will wrap up production of a must-watch video on emergency preparedness training that students can watch on their cell phones.

(Below) Norma Winffel (center), her son, Brandon, and daughter, Kayla, appear at a vigil held by the Victims' Rights Foundation for her husband, Mike, and two others affected by the May 6 shootings in Montgomery County.







# CRITICAL COMMUNICATION

Rosano underscored the importance of the cell phone—and social media—in an emergency scenario. "We have learned valuable lessons from a couple of on-campus incidents," he says. "One is to communicate proactively, rather than to quash rumors that spread like wildfire." Rosano also encourages students, faculty, and staff to register for Montgomery College ALERT, an emergency notification system that pushes emails and text messages to the community in the event of delays, closures, or emergencies. Nearly 42,000 people have registered for Montgomery College ALERT since its inception in 2007.

To reinforce campus alerts, the College teamed with Montgomery County's Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and its Alert Montgomery emergency notification system. The mass notification system, a large-scale alert system, enables the College to send real-time notifications to individuals or groups using lists, locations, and visual intelligence.

Rosano says social media monitoring is also effective as a deterrent. The College's Office of Communications peruses social media and subscribes to a 24-hour media monitoring service releasing detailed reports of all mentions of Montgomery College in the news and on social media. Rosano and the communications team report any perceived threat, expressed or implied, to the College's Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) and to the police.

BIT teams—collegewide and campusbased—comprise deans, counselors, faculty, and safety and security staff. They review reports of behavior of concern, assess levels of threat, and make referrals to administrators, counselors, or mental health professionals. The BIT team provides online incident referral forms at montgomerycollege.edu/BIT.

Bolesta echoes the importance of reporting suspicious behavior. "The National Counterterrorism Training Center recently conducted a study of 57 active assailant scenarios," he says. "In 80 percent of the cases, witnesses observed indicators. Of those 80 percent, half of those people did not report anything. I can't overstate the importance of, 'If you see something, say something.'TM" He advises anyone to make an anonymous phone call to the Montgomery County Police Department at 301-279-8000 and, if necessary, the Maryland Coordination Analysis Center at 1-800-492-TIPS.

Rosano believes information sharing should be common practice among all county agencies. To that end, he convened a first-ever meeting of communications officers throughout the county last June. Officials from the College, Montgomery County Police, Montgomery County Government, Montgomery County Public Schools, and the Department of Homeland Security met to discuss best practices when emergency situations occur.

At the event, Rosano and Harrison discussed two incidents at the College, including the May 6 lockdown. "The College, the public schools, and the county are so interconnected," he says. "We all have to be on the same page and we have to communicate early and often."

Coordination, preparation, and vigilance are essential, but public safety at Montgomery College is a fluid situation. "I'm confident that with all these measures in place, Montgomery College's facilities are secure," Harrison says. "But we can't get complacent about scrutinizing and reevaluating situations that happen all over the world, particularly on college campuses."

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The College, the public schools, and the county are so interconnected, we all have to be on the same page and we have to communicate early and often.

> -Marcus Rosano Director of Media and Public Relations

# **ACTIVE ASSAILANT INCIDENT STATS**



**AVERAGE POLICE RESPONSE FOR FIRST OFFICERS** 

65% OF INCIDENTS ARE OVER IN **5 MINUTES OR LESS** 

55% INCIDENTS THAT ARE OVER BEFORE POLICE ARRIVE **40%** INCIDENTS THAT RESULT IN SUICIDE OF THE ASSAILANT

INCIDENTS THAT INVOLVE 37% MULTIPLE WEAPONS

2 OUT OF 3 TIMES THE SHOOTER WON'T STOP UNTIL POLICE STOP THEM



Source: Department of Justice/FBI: A Study of Active Shooter Incidents in the United States Between 2000 and 2013



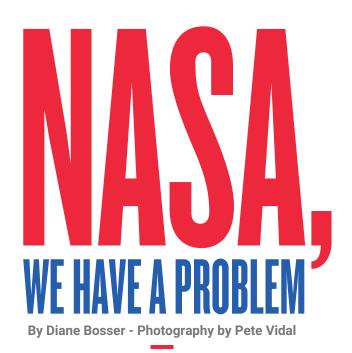
#### **Veteran Police Officer Takes Top Security Position**

In August 2015, the College hired Ms. Shawn Harrison as the director of public safety and emergency management. A 35-year veteran of law enforcement, she spent the first 26 years at the Baltimore City Police Department in various capacities including patrol, sexual assault and child abuse investigator, internal affairs, police academy instructor, and executive protection officer for the state's attorney of Baltimore City.

Upon retirement in 2007, she accepted the deputy chief position at Baltimore City Community College's Department of Public Safety.

In 2014, she accepted the first chief of police position at Piedmont Virginia Community College, Charlottesville, Virginia. While there, she established and accredited Piedmont Virginia Community College's campus police as a certified law enforcement agency.

She received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Coppin State University and a master's degree in management from Johns Hopkins University. She is a member of the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the Association of College Law Enforcement Administrators, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.



In the small, well-lit corner lab, Lyudmyla Panashchenko '05 places a capacitor into the Zeiss scanning electron microscope, or SEM, and closes the chamber.

When she activates it, the SEM will pump the chamber with the sample down to a vacuum and trace a focused electron beam over the sample and generate a high resolution image, magnified anywhere from 3 to 100,000 times its normal size. She can tilt the sample to view it from different angles and vary contrast and brightness to interpret the image. She looks for deficiencies in the component that might explain why it failed—or why it might fail—when circling the Earth inside a multi-milliondollar satellite. Panashchenko's work in the Electronic Parts and Packaging Department at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, helps reduce the risk and expense of failures.



Inside her lab, Lyudmyla Panashchenko '05, an aeronautical engineer at the Goddard Space Flight Center, discusses parts failure on spacecrafts and satellites. When she started as a mechanical engineering student at MC, she had no idea that path would lead to a stellar career at NASA.

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## "Parts fail for many reasons... Our job in failure analysis is kind of like *CSI*," she says, referring to the popular TV show. "We find evidence of what went wrong using data and testing."

hen parts fail on satellites already in orbit, the team uses information feeds from the satellite to backtrack from the point of failure. In the lab they sometimes have equipment identical to the orbiting equipment, which they can work on to find fixes. In her six years at Goddard, Panashchenko has tested, prevented, and/or analyzed failure on some historic projects.

Her team, for example, identified a faulty chip on a part destined for a NASA-operated mission for the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) ICESat-2, set for launch in 2017. The satellite will gather data and measure ice elevations, sea-ice thickness, and vegetation canvases in Greenland and Antarctica via laser technology. The data will be used by NASA's Earth Science team.

In 2010, when Toyota Auto Manufacturing and the Department of Transportation asked NASA for assistance finding cause for its accelerator pedal problem, which led to a large consumer recall, Panashchenko was part of the team that reported finding "whiskers" present on internal parts-not the kind that grow on chins of hipsters and lumberjacks, but the metallic variety that sprout (only sometimes) on electronics components when tin, zinc, and other alloys are present. The tiny growths, measuring from 1/10 to 1/100 in diameter of a human hair, are often undetectable by human eye. Typically, only an SEM can reveal their presence. Because they are conductive, whiskers can cause electrical disruptions and failures. Panashchenko researched tin whiskers extensively as a graduate student at University of Maryland. She says coatings sometimes help prevent their occurrence but scientists have yet to be able to predict when and how whiskers grow, or how to eliminate them altogether. Tin whiskers have caused the destruction of the Galaxy IV, Galaxy IIIR, and Solidaridad 1 satellites.

Last summer, she assisted in parts testing for one of NASA's largest projects—the James Webb Space Telescope, or JWST. The JWST, sometimes called a "time machine" or "first light machine," is the successor to the Hubble Space Telescope. It is designed to detect faint photons of light from the farthest reaches of our universe. Its primary mission will be to see further back in time than any human instrument ever—back to when the very first stars formed (some few hundred million years after the Big Bang—just



Holding a parts sample, Panashchenko describes some of the defects, such as metallic whiskers, that can interfere with satellite operations.

a fraction of our universe's 13.8 billion year history). It will also be able to study the composition of atmospheres on planets outside our solar system and perhaps one day even find a planet similar enough to Earth that can support carbon-based life.

Scheduled for launch in 2018, the JWST will have to survive rocket launch, a month of travel into space a million miles from Earth, and an almost 600-degree differential between the telescope's cold side (-388 degrees Fahrenheit) and its sunny side (+185 degrees Fahrenheit). When JWST reaches its destination, its 178 release devices

and 40 deployable structures all have to work in order for the \$8 billion project to become operational—from the smallest capacitors inside to the showy origami mirror panels outside.

"During testing, we mimic the extreme temperatures and vibrations that any spacecraft experiences during launch and orbit," says Panashchenko. These grand-scale tests can sometimes fail due to minute problems. During the ICESat-2 testing, for example, a cracked solder joint failed during pre-launch testing and an entire scientific instrument stopped functioning. Ultimately, the team discovered that a well-meaning technician had re-applied heat to the solder joint used to attach the part to the circuit board. That extra heat took the solder mixture to a temperature above its melting point, dissolving additional metals into the joint and resulting in a weaker connection. After testing to demonstrate this effect on spare components, the team used X-ray to look for weakened joints on built flight hardware, and identified weakened components that were then replaced. Without on-ground testing, this







#### From Top to Bottom

Shining a light onto the bar reveals metallic whiskers large enough to see with the naked eye. The tiny growths can measure from 1/10 to 1/100 of human hair in diameter. This sample is one of her favorites for public information events.

Data analysis and communications are critical to the Electronic Parts and Packaging Department's success in determining failure sources—even on satellites already high above the Earth.

Panashchenko loads a sample into her scanning electron microscope, which can produce an image up to 100,000 times its size using a focused electron beam.

failure would have likely resulted in loss of a satellite in orbit.

Panashchenko's experiences at Goddard in failure analysis continue to challenge her. In addition to giving input on the ICESat-2, JWST, and Hubble Space Telescope repairs, she had the opportunity to examine samples from Space Shuttle boxes that were growing tin whiskers. She has mentored several graduate students and undergraduate interns via the Pathways program, a government-wide initiative that often results in employment opportunities for new talent. She has spoken at conferences, and she is part of a small group that maintains NASA's metal whiskers website. Her thesis. "Evaluation of Environmental Tests for Tin Whisker Assessment" has been downloaded more than 5,000 times.

In January 2016, she returned to Montgomery College to talk to students about her work during the annual Maryland Science Bowl event-tin whisker samples in hand. "I am an expert on something so tiny," she says, "but significant to an entire industry. I encourage students to expand their learning in new areas because you never know what will inspire and make you passionate until you try it .... My own interest in metal whiskers was an accident-I picked up a laboratory internship as an undergraduate where, over time, I got to run a graduate project (after a graduate student left). I found it so fascinating that I decided to stay for my own graduate degree and work further on these little things called tin whiskers. It was an accident, as I think many things are in life. But an accident that only happened because I tried something new."

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DANIEL A. SWALEC





hen she picked up the phone, her manager asked, "How many seats do you want?" That's how Sarah Lasko '10 found out she would be playing Dorothy in the national tour of *The Wizard of Oz.* 

It was the perfect role for the longtime Oz fan. "I loved *The Wizard of Oz* movie and I watched it over and over growing up. I had a poster from the movie in my room," Lasko says.

The road to Oz was not easy; it took six auditions to get the part and she had to learn more than 40 pages of material. But Lasko says it is part of the job, and surprisingly, she enjoys auditioning. "It is always exciting to take over a role—even for an hour," she says.

Once the tour began, the cast performed eight shows a week, and Dorothy was on stage for almost the entire show. "It was definitely one of the hardest things I have done," Lasko says, and she had to be "vigilant about rest" throughout the tour. But even with the tough schedule, she was motivated to perform every night.

"Every show, I tried to make it a new experience and make it something different from the night before. And this was the first theatrical experience for many kids, so I really wanted to make it special for them." Lasko especially enjoyed working with her co-star, Nigel, who played Toto, and his understudy, Loki. Both dogs are Cairn Terrier rescues. "Learning how to be a dog handler on stage added an extra layer of challenge to the show. But it was also so much fun and I loved having dogs on the tour. They were stress relief!" Lasko says.

While working with animals on stage was new, Lasko is no stranger to the challenges of working in live theatre. She began performing in the Washington, DC, area at the age of seven and made her debut at age 14 in *Annie Get Your Gun*, a Montgomery College Summer Dinner Theatre production.

It was the beginning of a long relationship. Lasko earned an associate's degree at Montgomery College before transferring to the University of Maryland. At the College, she was impressed by the "stellar production values" including costumes, set pieces, and lighting. "And I got the opportunity to learn by doing, to train as an actor, singer, and performer, and to explore what I was passionate about," she says.

KenYatta Rogers, professor of theater, says it was that willingness to explore that set Lasko apart. Rogers directed *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, in which Lasko played Helena, and he was struck then by her inquisitiveness. "She was willing to take risks and so willing to play. A consummate student," he says. "I'm looking forward to watching her work in the future."

Lisa Carrier Baker, a professor of music and Lasko's longtime voice teacher, agrees. She was one of the first in line to see *The Wizard of Oz* when the tour stopped in Washington last May.

"I can't describe the pride I felt when I saw Sarah as Dorothy. It's been a joy to see her grow as a performer," Baker says.

Lasko returned to New York where she is auditioning and taking classes. And while her next road will not likely be paved with yellow bricks, we can't wait to see where it takes her.

"She was willing to take risks and so willing to play. A consummate student. I'm looking forward to watching her work in the future."

KENYATTA ROGERS, PROFESSOR OF THEATER





## SPOTLIGHT ON



PHOTOGRAPHY BY DIANE BOSSER

n most Saturdays and Sundays, visitors to the Brookside Nature Center in Wheaton Regional Park will encounter Quame DeJonge (Dee-yong). DeJonge joined the Montgomery County Parks staff as an interpreter and naturalist aide after four years of volunteer service on weekends. He is currently an environmental science and policy major at the Rockville Campus.

## **Q+A**

#### What motivated you to get involved with the Harper 1870s Homestead?

When I came to this country from Guyana with my father in 2010, I needed to connect to something familiar. Through the College's Educational Opportunity Center, I found the Brookside Nature Center on a list of the cooperative education and internship program's volunteer opportunities, and I looked into it right away. That is how I encountered the log home built in 1870 by freed slave Thomas Harper, and the Harper family relatives, some of whom I have met.

#### What impresses you most about the people who settled the homestead?

This house was relocated from its original 18-acre property, called Jonesville (near today's Poolesville, Md.). It was part of a settlement built by two African American brothers who were freed slaves. We know there was a family of 15 living in the house at one time. The living situation would have required cooperation among family members. I tell people-including visitors from around the world—what life was like in this cabin. Survival meant growing and hunting for food, gathering wood for fires to cook and keep warm, as well as making things and trading. Children would have contributed to

the family's functioning by gathering firewood and water when old enough to carry. But we also have a few simple wooden toys here to show that people enjoyed themselves, too.

#### What do visitors here most often find surprising to learn?

There is a unique blending of cultures here and excellent craftsmanship-in the beams, chimney, windows, staircase. The construction shows the skills and cultural knowledge people in slavery acquired. For example, although the Harper Homestead was built by an African American, the V notch-or manner in which the logs were shaped for construction-is a German-origin construction method. At the original site, the mortar between beams was made of red clay from the creek. The clay was boiled together with hog hair to make a hard plaster that kept out insects and cold winds. Had they been owned by someone from Denmark or England or elsewhere, they would have learned how to construct it a little differently, how to prepare foods differently, etc. We also understand now how much the natural environment determined African American lifestyle and diet (e.g., housing, food, clothing, medicine, etc.) based on where the cabin was located and the surrounding natural resources.

## Would you say there is enough research/preservation of freed slaves' lives being done?

Another structure from Jonesville was appropriated by the Smithsonian for the new African American History Museum in Washington. There are still structures there to be preserved, as well as another site in Poolesville called Sugarland. The Harper family has survived and still has a few elders living there-they have had family reunions here at the park. I have asked them to write down their history, including any family recipes because even they may provide insight into the past. They have donated items, including the photograph of Thomas Harper (the cabin's original owner) on the mantel, and an icebox from later years. Funding is needed for upkeep and ongoing research. Protecting both sites would preserve evidence of the African American heritage and culture.

## What of your efforts to get White House funding/support?

I have advocated for funding for repairs and preservation from several sources, including the Montgomery County executive and, yes, President Obama. I wrote to him not just because he is African American but because as a culturally mixed person, he would see



how Jonesville and Sugarland are unique to African American history. I intend to notify President-elect Trump of the untapped potential we have here for preserving these sites and for teaching more about them in our schools. I believe the stories of how our ancestors survived through a shared sense of purpose, direction, and community can inspire current and future generations.

The Harper Cabin is open Saturdays, 9 a.m.– 5 p.m. and Sundays, 1–5 p.m. Quame keeps a campfire going during fall and winter months: "marshmallow roasters welcome anytime."

Framed portrait (left) of John Harper, the cabin's builder and family patriarch, donated by Harper family descendants. The relocated Harper 1870 Cabin (below) features a newly restored working fireplace, staircase, and loft that accommodated at one time up to 15 family members.







DeJonge (immediate left) shows pointed-tops, or V-notch beams, of Black Oak, a once plentiful local resource. The notching style is a construction technique most likely appropriated from German slave owners. Cabin interior (far left): butter churn and homemade buckets and brooms.

## CLASS NOTES

## 1950s

**STEVE CASSOLA '51** has been enjoying 20 years of retirement after a 38-year career in the aerospace industry.

## 1970s

**MARY BETH LEIDMAN '70** is a co-author of 26: The Movers and Shakers of Variety Television (2016) and of the forthcoming Scriptwriting for the New Millennium (2017).

**DR. MELISSA GREGORY '76** was named the College's associate senior vice president for student affairs.

**CHUCK REDD '76** received *Hot House Jazz* magazine's Fans Decision Award for Vibes, for the second consecutive year.

**ERIC WALLGREN '79, MCAD '91,** spent 20 years working in the motorcycle, bicycle repair, graphic arts, and music industries. Since joining a rapidly expanding biotech industry in 2000, he has worked in the life sciences and renewable energy fields, focusing on the design of novel technologies and instruments. His work has resulted in significant profits, cost savings, and intellectual property for clients.

### 1980s

**WAYSON "DOC" LEE '86** presented his Hypnotic Sleep program in Huntsville, Ala., his new hometown, in May. He has a certification in clinical hypnotherapy, as well as a BA in psychology. He attributes his ability to speak before groups to his days on the Rockville Campus radio station.

## 1990s

**BRIAN VAN FLANDERN '90** is a consulting mixologist for Seabourne Luxury Cruise Lines.

**RICHARD HOLLEY '92** earned bachelor's degrees in occupational therapy and sociology from Towson University and is pursuing a master's in adult education from Pennsylvania State University. He is a major in the United States Army Reserve, serving with the 328th Medical Det.— Combat Operation Stress Control, in Pennsylvania.

**CUADALUPE E. DELGADO '94** married in 2015 and is now Mrs. Guadalupe E. Gonzalez.

## 2000s

EHUD NONO KETCHOUANG '06 is

pursuing his bachelor's degree in business administration at UMUC while working for Montgomery County's Ride-On bus service.

**KEEGAN DUFRESNE '07** is a real estate agent for ReMax Allegiance.

**TIM COSTALES '08** graduated cum laude with a doctor of medicine degree from the University of Maryland, was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honors Society, and is a resident in orthopedic surgery at the University of Maryland Medical Center.



**GRACIE JONES '09** (second from right) performed at Arena Stage this past summer in *Born for This: The BeBe Winans Story*, a musical about BeBe and CeCe Winans and their early careers as gospel singers on Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker's Praise The Lord Network television show. She played the role of Edith, a singer with the Praise the Lord Club.



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Scholarships Awarded by the Montgomery College Foundation

**Jean Francois Onana** 

### 2010s

ALICE JENNINGS '10 earned her BS in human services from the University of Phoenix. She works with adults with disabilities.

**ERICA ESPINOSA '11** graduated with a law degree from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and is currently studying for the bar.



**GRETCHEN WINCH '11** is a teacher with Montgomery County Public Schools. She is teaching sixth grade world studies at Silver Spring International Middle School.

**MECAN WYBLE '14** is majoring in motion media design and minoring in metals and jewelry at Savannah College of Art and Design. This past summer, Megan worked as a digital media intern at Discovery Communications in Silver Spring, Md.

**LUCIA PEREZ '15** is a paralegal specializing in immigration law in Rockville.

**BRIAN SCHOEM '15** interned this past summer for Maryland State Delegate Alonzo Washington of Prince George's County. He is currently majoring in government and politics and minoring in history at the University of Maryland.

**SOPHAVANN ROS '16** is attending the University of Maryland School of Nursing at the Universities at Shady Grove.

**MARIUS BETFIANG '16** is a radiologic technologist at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital.

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

## SAVE THE DATE



### Dogfishing for MC Scholarships

#### May 9, 2017

Dogfish Head Alehouse 800 West Diamond Avenue Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Have a delicious meal and unwind with family and friends after work at Dogfish Head Alehouse. That's all you have to do to show your support for MC students. Dogfish Head Alehouse will be donating 15 percent of the day's receipts to the Alumni Association's scholarship fund.

## **IN MEMORIAM**

**JAMES B. WELCH '10** July 7, 2016

MARY E. GOULD '71 June 3, 2016

**REV. JEROME S. BROWN '56** May 29, 2016

MICHELLE GYAMFI '16 May 11, 2016

**TIFFIANE ANTOINETTE SANDERS '16** May 10, 2016

**KEITH W. HOWE '71** December 11, 2015

THIEN TRANG T. NGUYEN '89 June 23, 2015

PAUL SCHAUFELBERGER, BLISS '47 May 22, 2015



#### **JAMES M. DAVIS**

March 22, 2016

Davis was a professor and coach from 1964 until his retirement in 1988. He developed course offerings for physical education students and majors, and he created the track and cross-country teams.

His overall record in track and field from 1964 to 1977 was 80–38. He led the team to victory at the Maryland JUCO

Athletic Conference Champions for nine years and NJCAA Athletic Champions for six years. Four team members were NJCAA All-Americans. His cross-country coaching career, from 1964 to 1976, ended with a Maryland JUCO team record of 53–2. His team was Maryland JUCO Athletic Conference Champion for five years. Two team members were NJCAA All-Americans.

He received 12 gold medals and six silver medals in six different track and field events in the Senior Games by the Sea in Wilmington, North Carolina. In 1995 he was inducted into the Montgomery College Athletic Hall of Fame.

### **RICHARD THOMPSON '78**

#### Cartoonist Richard Thompson Made Us Laugh By Gail Rubin '78

The award-winning cartoonist Richard Thompson, widely known for his syndicated comic strip *Cul de Sac* and *Richard's Poor Almanac* cartoons, died of complications from Parkinson's Disease on July 27, 2016.

This is personal. I knew and loved Richard Thompson long before he became famous. We worked together on the staff of *The Spur*, the student newspaper at MC's Rockville Campus. He drew cartoons for each issue; I was the features editor. How I wish I still had those issues from 1976 to 1978!

Richard never graduated from MC, but the College gave him the Milton F. "Sonny" Clogg Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award in 2004 anyway. I'm sure Richard saw humor in the fact he got an alumni award although he dropped out.

He also was recognized in 2011 with the prestigious Reuben Award for Outstanding Cartoonist of the Year, presented by the National Cartoonists Society, the National Cartoonists Society's Magazine and Book Illustration Award for 1995, plus their Newspaper Illustration Award for 1995, and a Gold and a Silver Funny Bone Award in 1989 from the Society of Illustrators for humorous illustration.

#### Markland Medieval Mercenary Militia

It was during our time at Montgomery College that we discovered the fun of historic recreation, specifically, dressing up in medieval garb and participating in feasts, mock battles, and providing local color at Renaissance festivals.

Richard was a natural jester, and he dressed the part. He was always soft-spoken, and his wit was incredibly fast and dry. My first costume/ persona was as a member of Robin Hood's band of merry men (and women)—green tights, tunic and hood, moccasin boots, archer's bow, and stout staff.

Richard, in addition to being a wonderful cartoonist, was also a great illustrator. One year for my birthday, Richard presented me with a beautiful painting of an archer, heroically poised on top of an outcropping of earth. The title he wrote on the back was "Rubin Hood." I treasure this piece of his artwork to this day.

#### The Blue Screen of Death

In 2009, Richard announced that he had been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, a problem he described as "a pain in the fundament" which slowed him down but did not affect his drawing hand.

His humor stayed as sharp as ever. His cartoon from 2011, "BSOD" (Blue Screen of Death), shows the Grim Reaper staring at an unresponsive computer screen and saying, "Not AGAIN!" (Oh, PCs!) It is a sobering thought that a classmate has died. Someone of my era. It really brings one's own mortality into view.

And I am sad that the world has lost a wonderful voice. But we have Richard's vast collection of art and comics to keep us company and raise our spirits. They live on, while our mortal bodies eventually fail. Rest in peace, my friend.

Gail Rubin, "Cartoonist Richard Thompson Made Us Laugh," A Good Goodbye (blog), aqoodqoodbye.com, August 26, 2016



From 1976 to 1978, while attending Montgomery College, Thompson drew comic strips for the Rockville Campus' student newspaper *The Spur*.

## CAMPUS SCENES

## **SPIRIT WEEK** 2016

Montgomery College celebrated its first-ever Spirit Week, October 31 through November 4. Faculty, staff, and students wore MC colors and promoted school spirit by participating in contests and pep rallies at all three campuses. Dr. Pollard and the Raptor judged the contests and awarded prizes. Here are some highlights of the week. Visit the Spirit Week website at **montgomerycollege.edu/mcproud. #mcproud** 





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