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Fall 2013

the magazine for montgomery college alumni and friends

insights



FINISHING
SCHOOL

HOW AGE-OLD OBSTACLES AND
A BRAND-NEW LAW AFFECT
COLLEGE COMPLETION

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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.



Pete Vidal

Carol Leahy (center), Greg Enloe (left), and Alumni Association leaders congratulated recipients of the Association's 2013–2014 student scholarships in September.

From the Alumni Association President

For a quarter of a century, a small number of truly exceptional past students have received MC's highest alumni honor. We called it the Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award until 2002, when we named it in honor of Milton F. ("Sonny") Clogg '48, president of the College's first graduating class, who remained devoted to MC throughout his life.

One holder of the Milton F. Clogg Award is Sue Flatow '72. Sue volunteered countless hours to help other students succeed, then led selection committees for association awards and scholarships, and then urged us to develop our alumni mentoring program, now in its second year. Some time ago, Sue realized that the Clogg Award recognizes a lifetime of achievements, and said we should also spotlight alumni who are doing noteworthy things as soon as they leave MC. And now, we're doing that.

At next spring's awards dinner, we'll celebrate the careers of some remarkable alumni, welcome new members of the Athletic Hall of Fame, and inaugurate a new "Rising Star" Award, recognizing a young alum. The first of these awards goes to Dr. Amy Gueye '03, who is featured in this issue. The alumni awards are a chance to catch up with past MC students—maybe even your classmates. I invite you to reserve your tickets early for this great event

by visiting www.montgomerycollege.edu/alumniawards today.

While you're online, be sure to update your access to MyMC, the College's secure portal, which gives past students access to many College services. As part of MC's work to keep your personal information safe, users are being asked to claim their MyMC account using new, stronger passwords this fall. More information about this change is available at www.montgomerycollege.edu/claim-your-account. If you are returning to MyMC after a long time away, you'll be directed to the Claim Your Account page. Use the number on your Alumni Association membership card to identify yourself.

There's one more thing I can suggest on the website: the online giving page, where you can contribute to scholarship support with a contribution to the Alumni Association. A click on www.montgomerycollege.edu/onlinegiving can make the difference for one of today's students who—you never know—may some day collect an alumni award of their own!

Carol W. Leahy '74
Alumni Association President

Fall 2013

insights



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Four students share college trials and triumphs.



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About the Cover

Erwin Hesse '08, pictured at an abandoned building near his office at the University of Maryland, lives by the axiom: don't try to prove others wrong; prove yourself right. He did just that by overcoming obstacles to complete an AA—and a bachelor's degree, graduate certificate, and master's degree, too. Photographer Sanjay Suchak.



Courtesy Office of Central Facilities

Germantown The new 145,000-square-foot, \$60 million Bioscience Education Center project is proceeding on schedule; estimated completion and occupancy is August 2014. The facility will support the science programs and complement a business incubator on the campus operated by Montgomery County.

Rockville

This aerial photo, taken in July, shows Science East building construction progress. Features include: new roof, new solar panels (black squares), brick façade. Windows will line the back side of the building. Estimated completion and occupancy of the building is January 2014. Also at Rockville, the future renovation of Science West, a \$32 million construction, will improve the existing 69,500 square feet and add 27,500 square feet in new construction.

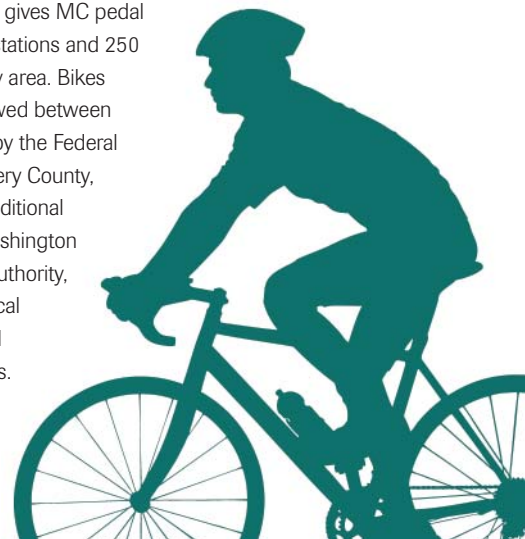
Renaming

The College honored Professor Emerita Catherine F. Scott, 95, last spring by renaming The Commons building at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus the Catherine F. Scott Commons. Scott taught at the College for 30 years. She has continued to support students through a \$1 million scholarship endowment.



Pedal Power

Students at Rockville and Takoma Park/Silver Spring can bike to campus from Red Line Metro stations or bus stops via the newly expanded Capital Bikeshare program. A new agreement between Alta Bicycle Share and the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) gives MC pedal pushers access to 30 bike stations and 250 bicycles in the down-county area. Bikes are checked out and borrowed between stops. Funding is provided by the Federal Transit Authority, Montgomery County, and the City of Rockville; additional support comes from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, Montgomery Works, and local chambers of commerce and higher-education institutions.





Welcome Centers

New Welcome Centers opened this fall to help prospective, new, and continuing students with registration, e-mail, and the MyMC portal, plus general College information. With the exception of Takoma Park/Silver Spring (coming soon!), drop-ins will find specially trained staff and student-use computers at the centers on each campus and at the Mannakee Central Services Building.

The Telly Awards



Greg Wahl 2013 Maryland Professor of the Year

For the fifth year in a row—and the seventh time in nine years—a Montgomery College professor has been named Maryland Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

This year, the honor goes to Greg Wahl, English professor at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. Wahl's teaching was the subject of a March 2013 article in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* about developmental writing programs.



Pete Vidal

WWII Video

Alex Cole '13 interviewed WWII US Army veteran Demetri "Dee" Paris, 97, for a campus-produced television program, entitled "MCTV's Access to History: World War II Army Tank Platoon Leader." Shot in high-definition video by MCTV staff, the project won three Telly Awards (2013) and two 2013 Communicator Awards of Distinction in the documentary and history/biography categories. The 70-minute program canvasses Paris's military training and mission, including his experiences at the Battle of the Bulge and capture of the bridge at Remagen.

Engineering Milestone

With more than 1,300 students enrolled in its engineering programs, MC boasts the largest community college transfer engineering program in the nation.



Sanjay Suchak



From left to right: design team members Laura Hessler '13 and Allyson Horton '13 with Pamela Gragg and Chantal Vilmar, professors of interior design

Cafeteria Style

Interior design students showed their professional chops by designing the employee cafeteria at the Hyatt Regency Baltimore (Inner Harbor), unveiled in June. Six student teams from an advanced commercial design class competed against each other to create the new look for the 800-square-foot space. Hyatt employees selected the winning design, "citrus." Laura Hessler '13 says the team chose the colors, lighting, and seating, arranged in a new circulation pattern, to create a refreshing atmosphere for "Hyatt staffers who work hard all day meeting the needs of so many others." Nathalie Rytting, director of human resources, says, "We got a beautiful design and the students got a chance to work with a real-life client. Our employees love this new space."

What's in a Name?

Flora M. Singer '75 (1930–2009), Holocaust survivor, teacher, and community leader, was honored by Montgomery County Public Schools in May with the naming of a new school. The Flora M. Singer Elementary School, Silver Spring, Md., bears the name of the former dressmaker and bagel shop owner who spoke six languages. Singer, who came to the United States in 1946 from Belgium, moved to Montgomery County with her family in 1966 to open a bagel store (Bagel Master, Wheaton, Md.). As a working mother in the 1970s, she attended MC, then pursued a teaching career in the county's public schools. She became a prolific speaker, writer, Holocaust scholar, and Yiddish scholar. She worked as a United States Holocaust Memorial Museum volunteer, among her many civic activities. Singer was featured in *Portraits of Life: Holocaust Survivors*, a special exhibit produced by the College's Paul Peck Humanities Institute in 2004.



Flora M. Singer Elementary School



English in the E.R.—STAT!

Holy Cross Hospital asked MC to create an American English speaking and listening course, customized for its non-native employees. In the inaugural class this fall, Professor Lauralyn McWilliams is instructing 11 hospital employees whose first language is not English, in the new course, English Speaking and Listening Skills for Healthcare Workers. Through academic instruction, role play, and simulation, students will develop cultural awareness and etiquette, become more familiar with American English grammar rules, and improve pronunciation, stress, rhythm, and intonation. Students will also learn to understand and use medical jargon and idiomatic expressions.

Speaking Our Language

MC students hail from 170 different nations. Based on enrollment records, these are the most-spoken languages for 2012–2013, in alphabetical order: Amharic, Arabic, Armenian, Bengali, Bulgarian, Chinese (Mandarin), Farsi, Filipino, French, German, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Nepali, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Thai, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu, Vietnamese.

[Source: Montgomery College Office of Institutional Research]

State's Attorney John McCarthy

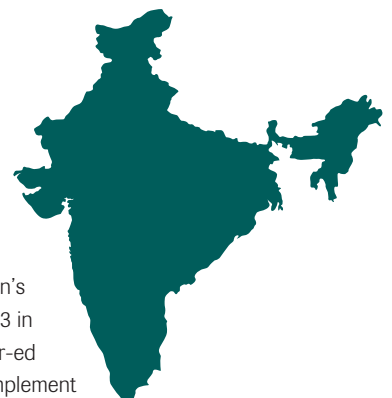
Adjunct Professor McCarthy spoke to paralegal students about the successful prosecution of Brittany Norwood for the murder of Lululemon co-worker Jayna Murray at its one-year anniversary. [YouTube.com/montgomerycollege](https://www.youtube.com/montgomerycollege)



Why India?

"Montgomery College has a unique opportunity to assist in developing and expanding the skills of [India's] workforce," says MC President DeRionne Pollard.

Pollard participated in the All India Council for Education's Higher Education Dialog 2013 in June. The gathering of higher-ed experts advanced plans to implement the community college system in India, where 230 million grade-schoolers and 20 million college-aged students already strain resources. Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's goal is to prepare 500 million new workers by 2022.



Fall into a great read

Need a guidebook for the Egyptian spirit world? Want to sharpen your digital design skills? Interested in safer sex? Fascinated by hurricanes? Look no further. There's something for everyone on our fall reading list, which highlights recently published books by MC authors. Find them at amazon.com.

The Traveller's Guide to the Duat

Planning a trip to the ancient Egyptian spirit world? This handy guide, illustrated by Art Professor **Michael Harrington**, is your blueprint to the history, geography, and politics of your destination. Inspired by *The Egyptian Book of the Dead*, this guide provides extensive (and humorous) information about ancient beliefs and practices—from the anatomy of the human soul to the history of creation to judgment rites. Renditions of ancient spells in modern poetry mark each section, showing the ancient magical texts in a new light.

Laurent Clerc

English Professor **Cathryn Carroll's** young-adult novel, *Laurent Clerc: The Story of His Early Years*, tells the story of the real-life deaf teacher who helped Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet establish schools for deaf Americans in the 19th century. In first-person, vivid prose, Clerc relates his experiences growing up in Paris, which led to his progressive teaching methods. Especially influential was his time at the Royal National Institute for the Deaf in Paris, where he encountered sharply distinct personalities—the saintly, inspiring deaf teacher Massieu, the vicious Dr. Itard and his heartless “experiments” on deaf boys, and the “Father of the Deaf,” Abbe Sicard, who could hardly sign. A French translation of the book will follow.

Power of Paradise

Ade Balogun '99, (pen name Dave Skyé) wrote his first short story, “Living Colors,” while a student at MC. Balogun includes that first work in his book, *Power of Paradise*, a collection of inspirational short stories. “I hope that my stories can inspire lots of students to go after their dreams,” says Balogun, “even if the odds seem stacked against them.”



Hurricanes and the Middle Atlantic States

Richard Schwartz '77 conducted more than 100 interviews and worked for seven years on *Hurricanes and the Middle Atlantic States*. The first book to examine the 400-year recorded hurricane history of the region, it offers chronological profiles of significant storms, from Jamestown to the present, and more than 200 black and white photographs—many appearing in print for the first time. Human interest stories, and examination of the patterns, characteristics, quirks, and dangers of mid-Atlantic hurricanes, make this a must-have for those living in the region.

Teaching Safer Sex

Co-edited by **Dr. Susan Milstein**, professor of health, *Teaching Safer Sex* was selected by the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and Therapists (AASECT) for the 2013 AASECT Book Award. The award recognizes works “that make a significant contribution to AASECT’s vision of sexual health and to the clinical and educational standards of the field.” The two-volume set, now in its third edition, provides sound information on safe sex practices and sexually transmitted diseases for individuals, as well as those often affected by safe sex practices: family, friends, and acquaintances.

Digital Tools for the Visual Arts

Harry St. Ours, professor of communication arts technology and an Apple Distinguished Educator, shares his expertise in this iBook, based on his digital design classes. *Digital Tools for the Visual Arts* is a complete course of 12 lessons that will get you up and running fast. St. Ours showcases the best of the Adobe Creative Suite line of products, with a special emphasis on the Mac. Whether you work for yourself or an agency, or whether you are a student or teacher, these tips, tricks, and techniques belong in your digital tool belt. (Available for download on iPads with iBooks or on computers with iTunes.)

Erwin Hesse '08 is the coordinator of limited enrollment programs at the University of Maryland. A reunion, of sorts, served as a wake-up call for Hesse. On a visit to the Montgomery County correctional facility with his MC criminal justice class, he ran into two close friends from high school—who had been incarcerated. Hesse attributes that chance meeting to the drive to complete college.

“Statistically,
I shouldn’t
even be here.”

—Erwin Hesse



by Jill Fitzgerald

Finishing School

How age-old obstacles and
a brand-new law affect college completion

“Statistically, I shouldn’t even be here,” says Erwin Hesse ’08, leaning back in his desk chair at the University of Maryland’s Mitchell Building.

He enrolled at Montgomery College with a 1.3 grade point average from Rockville High School and no money to pay for his education. His mother and father, only high school educated in El Salvador and Peru, respectively, could offer no help navigating the daunting college admissions and financial aid process.

“Only 10 percent of first-generation, minority background students actually complete a bachelor’s degree. In fact, when I graduated high school in 2005, the dropout rate for Hispanic students was almost double the rate of any other ethnic group,” says Hesse.

Hesse’s first stop—and last hope—after graduation was Montgomery College. He overcame abysmal grades and near expulsion from high school to complete a degree.

While he became an exceptional student, Hesse’s accomplishment has proven elusive for other students, according to data by Complete College America, a national nonprofit working with states to improve college completion. Between 1970 and 2009, undergraduate enrollment in the United

States more than doubled, while the completion rate had been virtually unchanged. Once first in the world, America now ranks 10th in the percentage of young adults with a college degree.

President Barack Obama set an ambitious goal to have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world by the year 2020. To reach this goal, the US Department of Education projects that the proportion of college graduates in the United States will need to increase by 50 percent nationwide by the end of the decade.

Governor Martin O’Malley set ambitious completion goals for Maryland as well: 55 percent of Maryland’s adults, ages 25 to 64, will hold at least an associate’s degree by 2025. Maryland legislators enshrined this goal in law with the adoption of the College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act of 2013. The law calls for greater collaboration among all sectors of education from preschool to college and requires initiatives to drive completion.

Maryland State Senator Rich Madaleno, who cosponsored the college completion legislation, believes Maryland’s higher education institutions face a tough challenge: educating a different type of student with fewer resources. He suggests that if institutions don’t meet this challenge, they’ll fall

“I debated whether or not to finish the degree. In the end, it paid off in ways I never expected.”

—Kimberly White



Sanjay Suchak

Although she had a bachelor's degree in biology, Kimberly White '12, above and top, felt she needed more relevant skills for today's labs. After completing her AAS at the College, she enrolled in both a master's program at University of Maryland Baltimore County and an online clinical research administration program at Walden University.

behind the competition. “We can’t afford that as a state—a state so dependent on the educational ability of its citizens,” he says.

Driving that graduate increase is the need for an educated workforce to fill the jobs of the future. Complete College America found that, by 2020, more than two-thirds of the jobs in Maryland would require a career certificate or college degree.

Additionally, nearly 30 percent of Americans with associate’s degrees now make more than those with bachelor’s degrees, according to Georgetown University’s Center on Education and the Workforce. In fact, other recent research in several states shows that, on average, community college graduates right out of school make more than graduates of four-year universities.

“I had a bachelor’s degree in biology from Coppin State University,” says Kimberly White ’12. “But I needed something that was going get me into the workforce quickly.”

White, who had been out of the research field for more than 10 years, feared her skills wouldn’t be relevant in today’s innovative labs. That prompted the mother of five from Shady Side, Md., to enroll at the College in fall 2010. She planned to combine her prior course work with classes in cell culture and computer science.

Soon after she started, White, like many of her community college contemporaries, had a life crisis threaten to stop her progress. Her husband required surgery in January 2011. Dr. Collins Jones, a biotechnology professor at the College, recommended she take a class in cell function and cell structure so she could make herself more marketable.

In August 2011, White landed a research specialist position at the NICHD Brain and Tissue Bank located at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. “Our lives are not one dimensional,” says White. “Sometimes stuff gets in the way of our plans. Fortunately, I was able to hit the



Sanjay Suchak

ground running with the experience I got in the lab classes at the College.” While working full time, she finished her associate’s degree in spring 2012.

“I debated whether or not to finish the degree,” says White. “In the end, it paid off in ways I never expected. I wanted to walk across that stage and show my kids I completed something. They were excited to see that aspirations and goals can be reached and accomplished.”

White’s children—and many other Maryland students with college degree ambitions—will benefit from the new college completion legislation. It enumerates a series of goals, strategies, and initiatives aimed at reducing the need for remediation and enhancing college completion. The list of expectations includes expanding access to early college, enhancing transferability, expediting the time for degree completion, and ensuring more high school students are college ready.

Continued on page 10

Finishing School

Choosing the Right Course of Action—in High School

In May 2012, while his Montgomery College classmates were preparing for commencement—and the job market—18-year-old Matt Abod was helping his team win a baseball crown, heading to prom, and getting ready to graduate from Magruder High School.

Abod, who needed only a year of English to graduate from high school, believed he would be better served taking college classes. Through the College’s early placement program, he earned 13 college credits in his senior year of high school. At the end

of the fall 2013 semester, Abod will have enough credits to transfer to a four-year school. “It was a little more expensive to come here in high school, but I felt more confident taking college classes and earning the credits.”

Abod believes that finishing at Montgomery College a semester ahead of time—and showing initiative by taking college classes in high school—will give him a much-needed leg up on the competition vying for spots in University of Maryland’s Robert H. Smith School of Business.



Photos courtesy Nancy Abod

Matt Abod (top, far left and right) will finish at Montgomery College a semester early because he took classes his senior year. This will afford him time to pursue emergency medical training classes at the Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department and to take classes at Montgomery College toward his accounting degree at the University of Maryland.

“Not only is it incumbent on education to help the student with straight As..., but also the student who’s below average and wants to reach his or her potential.”

—Erwin Hesse



Pete Vidal

Every year, more than two-thirds of all Maryland community college students enroll in remediation, just like Hesse, who had to take two developmental math courses when he first arrived. Developmental courses are necessary to ensure a student’s success in college-level course work, but these add to a student’s financial burden, and they often push back a student’s anticipated completion date.

In a report released by the American Institutes for Research in 2010, of the 1.1 million students who entered college in 2002, nearly 493,000 failed to graduate within six years, causing them to earn much less than students who graduated and costing an estimated \$4.5 billion in lost income and federal and state income taxes in 2010.

“I didn’t have the mindset to pursue higher education,” says John Yi, a 25-year-old Clarksburg resident, who started his odyssey at Montgomery College in 2007. “I signed up for classes because my parents wanted me to. School was my last priority.” And it showed. After failing or withdrawing from almost all of his classes for nearly three years, Yi gave up and briefly stopped attending.

While working full time at Bank of America as a sales specialist, Yi finally realized, “I was living paycheck to paycheck. My friends were off doing big things—and I was pretty envious. I knew if I wanted to do better, I needed a degree.”

In 2010, he resurrected his academic career, retaking a number of classes he’d previously failed. He managed to replace Ws and Fs with As and Bs. By the end of the spring 2013 semester, he had the credits to transfer to the University of Maryland. He is currently pursuing a bachelor’s degree in computer science.

Though only one class short of his AA in general studies, Yi did not pursue the degree. “To be honest, I didn’t think it was important to get an associate’s as long as I got my bachelor’s,” he says. He’s not alone: 86 percent of the College’s students fail to complete a degree in three years.

“It’s a missed opportunity,” says Dr. Donald Pearl, the College’s senior vice president of academic affairs, who extols the virtues of completion. “If you leave here with a degree, it has very clearly defined outcomes that someone in industry would be able to understand. It shows you have the broad-based educational experience to

New Law Impacts K–12 Students, Too

The College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act of 2013 impacts the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and local K–12 school systems, too. The key elements of the bill include:

- Providing that all students must be assessed for college readiness no later than grade 11
- Requiring the MSDE, in collaboration with local school systems and community colleges, to develop and implement transition courses or other instructional opportunities to be delivered in high school
- Requiring that all high school students must enroll in mathematics each year of high school
- Setting a goal that all secondary students achieve Algebra II competency
- Prohibiting public higher education from charging tuition to dually enrolled students
- Requiring local school systems to reimburse public higher education institutions for a portion of the tuition for dually enrolled students



Source: www.mdacc.org

get a job. Getting the degree says you can start a job and finish it.”

To ensure even more Montgomery County students get the help they need to come prepared to College—and to complete a degree, Montgomery College, Montgomery County Public Schools, and the Universities at Shady Grove launched an innovative program for underrepresented high school students this fall. Achieving Collegiate Excellence and Success (ACES), a free program, helps students throughout

their high school and MC experience with academic coaching, college readiness and success activities, and support services.

Erwin Hesse underscores how critical it is to provide students with the information and opportunities they need to make degree completion a reality. “I didn’t know my high school guidance counselor was supposed to tell me these things,” he says. After finishing at Montgomery College, he earned a bachelor’s degree at University of Maryland, a graduate certificate at Harvard

University, and most recently, an MPA from the University of Baltimore.

Hesse parlayed his education and experiences—good and bad—into a full-time admissions representative position at the University of Maryland. “I have a unique viewpoint,” says Hesse. “Not only is it incumbent on education to help the student with straight As and 2,400 on the SAT, but also the student who’s below average and wants to reach his or her potential. We have to make all students’ dreams come true.” ■

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

www.montgomerycollege.edu/onlinegiving



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

CURTAIN

MC Alums Light Up

What seven words
strike fear into the
heart of a parent?

*“I’m going to be a
theater major.”*

College advice articles seem to confirm the bad news: “Most Useless College Majors” ... “Worst College Majors for Your Career” ... “The Best and Worst College Degrees for Your Money.”

Do theater majors face a future pulling espresso shots, pouring whiskey, or waiting tables—while waiting for their big break?

Not necessarily. Turns out MC theatre grads can make a living—and a life—in Montgomery College’s own backyard.

With 80 professional theaters around the District alone, Washington comes in right behind



New York City as the most important theater city in the US.

Just ask the five 2013 Helen Hayes Award winners and nominees who are connected to Montgomery College. They’re all thriving. And they all cut their theater teeth at MC.

CALL

By Tina Kramer

DC Theater Scene



Priscilla Cuellar '04, left, as Paulette in *Legally Blonde*, and Matt Nielson '95, right, performing with the Washington Revels.

Photos, from left: Kirstine Christiansen; Sheppard Ferguson

The Anti-Diva

When the 2013 Helen Hayes Award nominees were announced this past February, Priscilla Cuellar '04 was cleaning her house, not watching the webcast.

"I was very, very surprised when I heard that I was nominated," says Cuellar, who was in the running for best supporting actress in a resident musical for *Legally Blonde: The Musical* at Toby's Dinner Theatre in Columbia, Maryland.

Continued

Cuellar never expected to win, so she didn't prepare a speech for the awards ceremony held this past April at the Warner Theater in Washington, DC.

"I remember them reading the category. I remember them saying my name. I remember standing up and thinking, 'I'm supposed to go up there,' but I don't remember anything I said," says Cuellar, who tied with Theresa Cunningham from *The Color Purple*, also at Toby's Dinner Theatre.

Cuellar, of Kensington, performed at Damascus High School, but she wasn't bitten by the acting bug until her second year at MC. Brad Nacht, a high school and college friend, pushed her to audition for shows. (Nacht has since gone on to Broadway fame for his roles in *Billy Elliott* and *The Addams Family*, among others.)

Lawrence Munsey '86 as Edna Turnblad in the Toby's Dinner Theatre production of *Hairspray*. Munsey did Summer Dinner Theatre at MC in the mid 1980s. He is currently associate artistic director at Toby's.

Photo: Kirstine Christiansen



"The rest is history. I knew I had to do this," says Cuellar, who built an impressive resume of acting and singing roles at MC, performing in the College Performing Arts Series in the spring and fall, and in Summer Dinner Theatre during June and July.

During college, Cuellar studied with some of the area's top theater professionals: Michael Bobbitt, artistic director of

"For six years, there were no breaks in between shows. I was very lucky and very blessed to work so much."

Adventure Theatre, who directed her in several plays; vocal coach Lisa Carrier; and acting coach Roberta Gasbarre, director of Discovery Theater.

She praises Professor Susan Hoffman, chair of the Department of Speech, Dance, and Theatre. "She helped me out a lot," says Cuellar. "She knew I came from a single mom family, and she was a big part of my life here."

A few short weeks after graduating, she launched her professional career, helped along by Dr. Jay Crowder, chair of the Department of Music. Crowder continues to assist her with issues and problems, and points her toward projects she should consider. "He's Number One for me," says Cuellar.

Crowder sent her to audition for her first job: the Musical Theater Center's *Schoolhouse Rock*.

Then it was on to Signature Theatre, and to venues all over Maryland, DC, and Virginia: Millennium Stage at the Kennedy Center, Imagination Stage, Adventure Theatre, Keegan Theatre, Olney Theatre, Toby's Dinner Theatre, and MetroStage, to name more than a few.

"For six years, there were no breaks in between shows. I was very lucky and very blessed to work so much," says Cuellar.

Her work in *Legally Blonde: The Musical* garnered rave reviews. DCtheatrescene.com said, "Priscilla Cuellar as Paulette is as strong a comic as she is a vocalist, and spearheads the show's arguably most uproarious number."

Of her recent role in Keegan Theatre's *The Full Monty*, broadwayworld.com said, "... the force of nature that is the newly minted Helen Hayes Award-winner Priscilla Cuellar is particularly memorable.... Her take on... 'Life with Harold,' is a show-stopper, both in terms of singing and song interpretation..."

Cuellar has arrived. Yet she continues to work full time as a medical auditor at Progressive Insurance Company in Silver Spring. "I tend to do only a few shows a year because it's so taxing," she says. "In 2012, I did four shows in a row. There was a time when I was doing just acting, but you have to say 'yes' to everything that comes your way. Now I choose what I want to be involved in because I have my job."

"I love theater and I could not be myself without it, but I'm not aspiring to quit my job and be on Broadway. I'm pretty content doing this on the side."

After doing four shows in 2012, Cuellar is enjoying her downtime, looking at a few projects for next spring.

"I still have to audition, but with this Hayes award, I don't have to wait in line. Most of the casting directors know me and just call me."

The Sound of Success

The term, "too much of a good thing," is how Matt Nielson '95 might describe parts of his career.

Nielson, formerly of Germantown and a Seneca Valley High School grad, won a Helen Hayes Award this year for outstanding sound design in a resident production for *The Illusion* at the Forum Theatre in Silver Spring.

In the mid 1990s, he trained in music and theatre at Montgomery College, studying acting with Professors Susan Hoffman and Roberta Gasbarre, and taking music with Professor Mark Cook and Professor Emeritus Gerald Muller, who have since moved on.

He acted in MC musicals, including, among others, *The Music Man*, *Candide*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Oklahoma*. In the music program, he cast, directed, and starred in *Oedipus Tex*, by Peter Schickele (P.D.Q. Bach).

In 1998, Nielson worked at Round House Theatre when it was located on Bushey Drive in Silver Spring. For several seasons, he built scenery by day and worked on the run crew at night. He spent two summers as a production coordinator at Wolf Trap, spending as much time as he could with the audio crew and learning as much as possible.

On a whim, he applied for a job as an audio master at Joseph Papp's Public Theater in New York City.

"I suspect they thought I was more experienced than I was; I had Wolf Trap on my resume," says Nielson. "They ended up hiring me. My first year was trial by fire, but I learned an immense amount."

It was easy to get burned out at a place like the Public, with five theaters downtown, plus Shakespeare in the Park productions in Central Park. "I was there for 9/11, which took a toll on everybody," says Nielson. "It was very hectic; they cut staff in half, but increased production."

Right around the time Nielson was losing steam at the Public, Round House was moving into new spaces in Bethesda and Silver Spring. So in 2002, Nielson hired on as assistant technical director/audio master. He split his time between building scenery, managing sound systems and audio needs for tech and previews, and running sound

Paul Scanlon '10 as the Emcee in *Cabaret* at the Keegan Theatre. "I've been very fortunate to work as much as I have."

Photo: C. Stanley Photography

for the occasional production. It was during this time that he received his training as a sound designer, watching and learning from the great designers in the area who frequented Round House.

Several years later, Nielson began sound designing in small theaters in the DC area. His first big break came in 2007 when Round House Theatre asked him to

"It's possible to make a living here, but it's healthy and good to accept jobs outside the DC regional theatre circuit."

design *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, for which he won his first Helen Hayes award.

He followed up with a Hayes award in 2009 for *1984* at Catalyst Theater, and was nominated several other times. In addition to his DC accolades, his work has been nominated for awards in Cincinnati and Philadelphia.

A couple of seasons into designing, Nielson discovered he was not finding the right music. He started composing, sneaking some of his own music into productions. "Little by little, I composed more and more," he says. "I got to the point where I scored the whole play, *Treasure Island*. These days, that's more the norm than not. Now, it's rare that I don't compose, which has brought me back full circle to my time at MC and the music training I had."

In 2010, Nielson relocated to Asheville, North Carolina to open Sound Lab Studios with his cousin, an award-winning audio engineer. There, he expanded into film and television. His work can be heard in several local and national commercials, short films, documentaries, and cable spots.

Nielson still comes back to the DC area. This past spring alone, he did 12 shows.

That's considerably less than a few years ago, when his average was 22–24 shows a season.

"I was double and triple booked," he says. Like Cuellar, he believed he had to take that many jobs, or the theater would never ask him again. "When you're working that much, God forbid something happens in your personal life that you need to spend time and energy on."

These days, he seems to have found a healthy balance. "Pace yourself," Nielson advises. "It's possible to make a living here, but it's healthy and good to accept jobs outside the DC regional theatre circuit to gain perspective as an actor and designer."



Celebrating Hayes Awards Nominees

Three other theater professionals with ties to MC were also nominated this year for Helen Hayes Awards: Paul Scanlan, Lawrence Munsey, and Jenny Cartney.

An Awakening Career

Paul Scanlan '10 was nominated for outstanding lead actor in a resident musical for *Spring Awakening* at the Keegan Theatre in Washington, DC. The young actor received his nomination even before he graduated from the Catholic University of America (CUA).

At MC, Scanlan studied with Professor KenYatta Rogers, himself an actor and director. "I didn't know a lot about acting," says Scanlan. "Professor Rogers taught me the basics. He taught me the things I still apply today: how to figure out what you want in a scene, and how to go about getting it."

In his two years here, he did *The Marriage of Bette and Boo*; *The Who's Tommy*; *Metamorphoses*; *The Rocky Horror Show*; *The House of Blue Leaves*; *She Loves Me*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

He transferred to Catholic University in 2010, and graduated this past May. At CUA, he took a body movement class with MC Professor Susan Hoffman, who also teaches there. "She's fantastic," says Scanlan. "I did a song and we analyzed it together. The things she said opened my eyes to what the song was about, allowing me to transform it in a way I never thought possible."

He just finished up *The Laramie Project* at Ford's Theatre and *The Rocky Horror Show* (Brad) at Studio Theatre; past roles include

Cabaret (Emcee) at the Keegan Theatre, *Company* (Paul), and *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* at Signature Theatre.

Scaling the Heights

Lawrence Munsey '86 was nominated for two Hayes awards this year: outstanding director in a resident musical and outstanding costume design, both for *The Color Purple* at Toby's Dinner Theatre in Columbia, Maryland.

Munsey is associate artistic director at Toby's Dinner Theatre in Columbia and Baltimore, where he started working soon after leaving MC.

He took theater classes and did Summer Dinner Theatre at MC in the mid 1980s, studying with Hoffman.

The musical received rave reviews from DCtheatrescene.com: "[The directors] have gathered a young Broadway-caliber cast that delivers amazing performances to tell their individual stories." Munsey, who also acts, worked with Priscilla Cuellar in *Legally Blonde* at Toby's, playing Professor Callahan.

In 2012, he received a Hayes nomination for outstanding director in a resident musical for *Chicago*, and in 2008, he snagged a nomination in the same category for *Titanic*, both at Toby's.

Munsey acted on Broadway and did national tours, but when Toby Orenstein wanted to open a second theater in Baltimore, Munsey "came running back."

"It's home and hearth; it's where my family is," says Munsey. "Here, I'm on a faster track. I wouldn't have gotten these opportunities on Broadway."

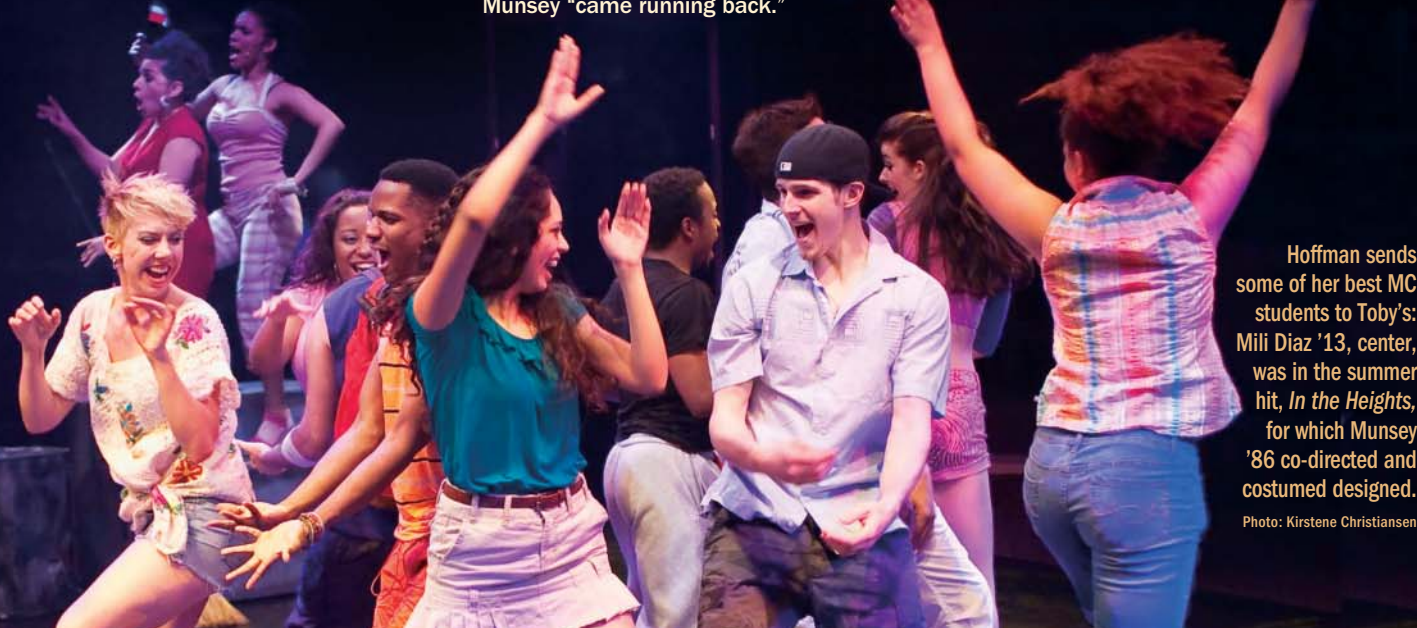
Alive and Well

Jenny Cartney was nominated for outstanding musical direction in a resident production for *Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well* and *Living in Paris* at MetroStage in Alexandria.

She was a composition major at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Va., but spent several seasons at the College's Summer Dinner Theatre from 1999 to 2003. In 2008, she music directed *Chicago* at MC, and this past July, she music directed *The Wiz* for Summer Dinner Theatre.

She has fond recollections of studying with Professors Susan Hoffman, Lisa Carrier, and especially, Jay Crowder. Thanks to Crowder's recommendation, Cartney participated in the Kennedy Center's legendary Sondheim celebration in 2002, working as rehearsal pianist for Crowder, who was an associate conductor for *Company*, and serving as associate conductor for *A Little Night Music*.

Cartney has worked as a music director and accompanist in the DC area since 2002, and has conducted, music directed, or performed at the Kennedy Center, Ford's Theatre, Signature Theatre, Arena Stage, MetroStage, and New York's Town Hall.



Hoffman sends some of her best MC students to Toby's: Mili Diaz '13, center, was in the summer hit, *In the Heights*, for which Munsey '86 co-directed and costumed designed.

Photo: Kirstene Christiansen

MYTH BUSTING: STUDENT RESEARCHERS DISPROVE FALLACIES, PRODUCE CONFERENCE-WORTHY RESULTS

BY DIANE BOSSER

For those who thought first- and second-year students don't do undergraduate research, think again. Evidence of research feasibility, student competencies, and faculty interest exists across the College in almost every discipline. From labs to libraries, desktops to dirt lots, MC students prove the skeptics wrong by producing irrefutable evidence of their abilities and ambitions.

Last year students submitted a record number of papers (42) to the 2013 Beacon Conference, the community college competition of academic achievement. Over the summer, eight faculty mentors accompanied 25 students to the conference; 21 students presented papers and four presented posters. The results: Montgomery College won 10 of the 18 categories.

"My philosophy is that if students have this [research] experience in the first and second year, they will graduate," says Dr. Eun-Woo Chang, instructional dean of science, engineering, and mathematics. "The relationships they experience with faculty mentors and advisers help them become successful as science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) majors and, later, in the workplace."

Since Chang arrived in 2011, coinciding with the opening of the new Science Center at the Rockville Campus, he has vigorously promoted new undergraduate research initiatives. The business and research communities have responded positively with funding to support these initiatives.

In 2012, the National Science Foundation awarded two large grants: a \$1.8 million,

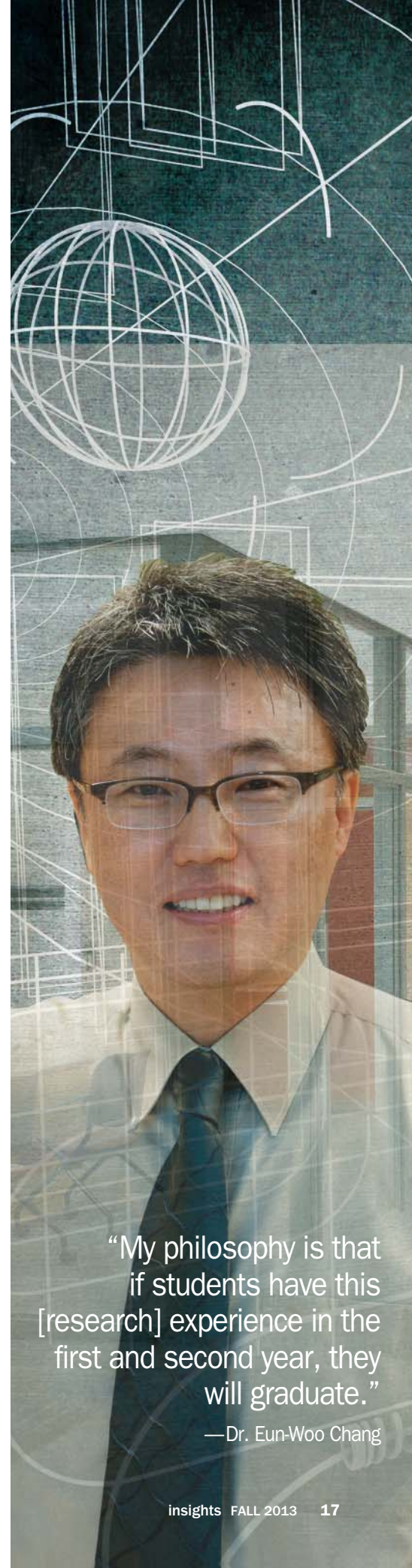
five-year Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program (STEP) grant and a \$300,000, two-year Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program grant. The STEP grant was the second largest grant in College history. The National Institutes of Health (Bethesda), National Institute of Standards and Technology (Gaithersburg), Naval Surface Warfare Center-Carderock (Bethesda), and the J. Craig Venter Institute (Rockville) have also helped more students do summer research through internships and stipend funding.

The benefits to students include opportunities to explore material not covered in class; additional credentials for resumes; better letters of recommendation from faculty mentors; and experience that often helps define future education or career paths.

Not limited to scientific research, humanities students have significant opportunities to work outside the classroom. Research is now a mandatory component of all honors programs.

"We try to open up as many options as we can," says Professor Sara Ducey, director of the College's Paul Peck Humanities Institute. "[Research] adds pressure—in a good way. You can see the students blossom."

In the new "completion agenda" age, undergraduate research will continue to play a supporting role in College efforts to meet new state and federal mandates. The Council on Undergraduate Research, a nonprofit organization that promotes undergraduate research benefits, asserts that research increases student retention and promotes an innovation-oriented culture.



"My philosophy is that if students have this [research] experience in the first and second year, they will graduate."

—Dr. Eun-Woo Chang

RESEARCH ROUNDUP

■ Professor Aubrey Smith and Principles of Biology student and life sciences major Amanda Caruso coauthored and published their biocomputational model of one **PEPCK (enzyme)** in the journal article, “In Silico Characterization and Homology Modeling of Cyanobacterial Phosphoenolpyruvate Carboxykinase Enzyme.” Smith says: “Amanda was the reason why I finally decided to start working on the project. Her contribution was vital, and she did good work.”

■ After months of weekly meetings with engineering professor, Dr. Lan Xiang, students Armand Nokbak-Nyemebe and Taqiyya Safi designed and produced a smart, **low-cost electronic home control unit**. The system allows homeowners to better manage energy resources and protect against intruders through a single device. They presented the unit at research and engineering conferences last season. “I had always liked engineering,” says Nokbak, “but thanks to Dr. Xiang, now I love it 10 times more.”

■ After an in-class overview of **viral diseases and epidemics**, Understanding Viruses (BI 104) students complete the final project: a conversation/interview with an HIV/AIDS patient. “The project reinforces the usual theoretical content,” says instructor, Dr. Muswamba Kadima-Nzuji, “resulting in increased awareness of the issue; respect for infected citizens; and civic duty in educating grass roots on viral emerging diseases as well as HIV/AIDS. At the end of the project, students come out more mature about the world around them and their own position within this world.”

■ TV/Radio students in their final semester collaborate to produce a **video program** highlighting the year’s successes. “MC in Focus: Commencement Edition” airs on Channel 10 and is played in the commencement tent before the ceremony to early bird seat savers. Professor Joanne Carl of the Communication Arts Technologies Department has led the effort for 10 years, supported by the Montgomery College Television (MCTV) staff. During that time, the equipment has changed from analog

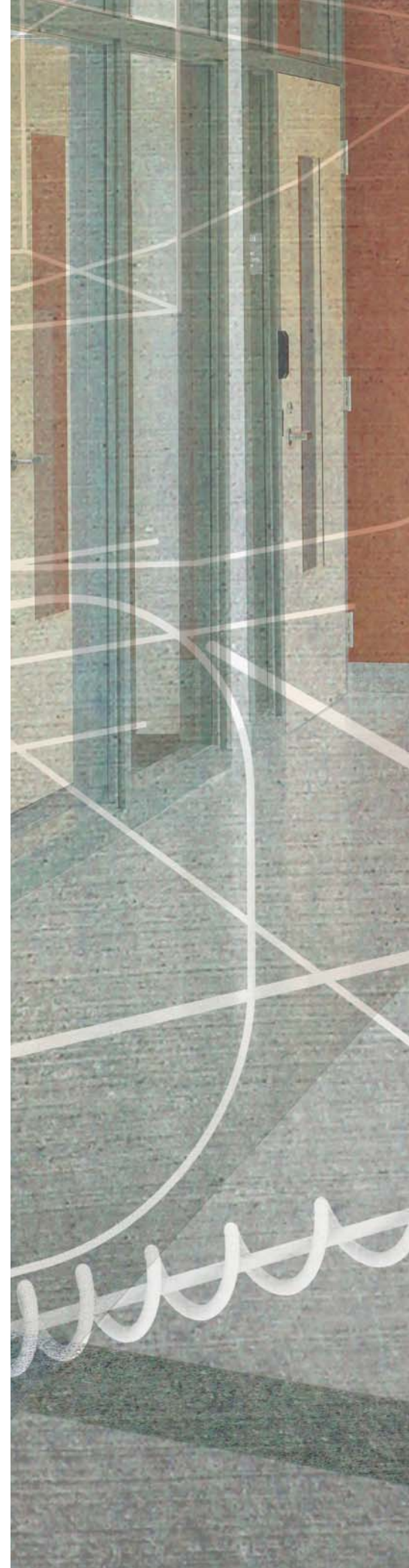
to digital, from tape to tapeless, and the students show no fear ... and no fatigue as they contribute more than 100 collective hours to the time-sensitive project. “It’s a great trial run for students about to embark on a career in TV production,” says Carl.

■ Summer students in **archaeology courses** Archaeological Investigations (AN 202) and Field Archaeology in Montgomery County (HP 260) tote whisk brooms, sifters, trowels, and handpicks, to sites hoping to unearth tangible connections to the people who came before us. In June 2012, students excavated at the Zeigler Log House in Clarksburg, Md. In their seasonal report, students linked findings—buttons, cloth remnants, children’s shoes, crystals, and small sundries from the early and mid-19th century—to county data (i.e., land-use records, maps, and historical customs). Ongoing research is supported by Anthropology Rookie Research Scholarships, established with a \$100,000 grant from retired anthropology professor, Dr. Mary Gallagher, and husband, Dr. Len Gallagher.

■ Greg Malveaux, coordinator for the College’s Study Abroad Program, and Joanne M. Frazier, associate professor of business administration, led 20 students to Germany, Luxembourg, and Brussels last summer. Along with touring carmakers BMW and Audi, the European Union parliament, and sampling German chocolate, the group worked at the Youth Farm for handicapped children in Stuttgart. They built a half-acre horse track to assist youth with **hippotherapy**, a therapy in which horse riding aids children with disabilities with walking, general balance, and concentration. The group was featured in a German newspaper. Seven students completed formal projects and blogged about their experiences on the College website.

READ more about undergraduate research and outstanding student projects at www.montgomerycollege.edu/insights.

SHARE your own MC research experiences/memories (mention your professors/mentors) for future *Insights* via e-mail to editor@montgomerycollege.edu.





Courtesy Eugene Li

IN HER ELEMENT

When her friends were getting out to the movies, the beach, and the mall last summer, Ngan Le '13 was exploring more *physic-ally* challenging activities: reading scientific journals, reviewing Newton's Second Law, making predictions, working and reworking calculations, and analyzing her data. After Dr. Eugene Li introduced her to the physics of falling objects in an introductory physics course, Ngan pursued her own research into the "raindrop problem."

"She would take her programming and math knowledge to go beyond what I asked her to try," says Li of his student's persistence and creativity. "It was like [working in] a PhD research group atmosphere."

The petite, bioengineering major produced a presentation, "A Mathematical Model of a Falling Raindrop in a Non-Uniform Gravitational Field," and was invited to present at the Joint Mathematics Meetings 2013 in San Diego. She was the only student from a two-year institution invited to present.

She also presented at the annual Beacon Conference in Bethlehem, Penn., where she won first place in the math/computer category. She completed her summer tour with a poster presentation at the AAPT (American Association of Physics Teachers) conference in Portland, Oregon.

Based upon her strong academic skills, Ngan was named a Presidential Scholar at the College and received multiple offers from transfer institutions; she is pursuing a biomedical engineering degree at Texas A&M University this fall, and plans to pursue a PhD.

Amy Gueye '03 MD, MPH, BS, AA

Dr. Gueye, the first recipient of the “Rising Star” young alumni award, is a resident in obstetrics and gynecology at The Johns Hopkins Hospital. After completing a bachelor's degree in biology from Hood College, she worked at the National Cancer Institute for a year, concentrating on breast cancer research and mouse genomics. During her years at the University of Virginia School of Medicine, she traveled to Senegal to research causes for an increase in cervical cancer cases, and to establish a national screening project for women. In 2010, she completed an MA in public health at The Johns Hopkins University, specializing in international and women's health. Amy graduated from UVA with an MD in May 2011.



Pete Vidal

Q+A

How many hours a week do you work?

100 hours on average.

What inspires you to keep going on days when you are worn out?

Knowing that there is a woman in despair waiting for me to alleviate not only her medical problems, but also her psychological burdens.

What drew you to the medical profession (and when)?

I decided to become a doctor at the age of 13 when I went back to Senegal to live for two years. The overwhelming health disparities shook me to my very core, and I vowed to become a part of the solution.

Who was your biggest influence/mentor?

My father. He taught me ambition, courage, persistence, and the power to believe in myself. He has made me who I am.

Any hobbies or outside interests?

Writing poetry, books, and children's stories, and spending time with my family.

What advice do you have for anyone interested in becoming a doctor?

It's a difficult path, so choose it for the right reason: because you love the field and you love to serve others. Once you have this, persistence, dedication, and the belief in something greater than you are will give you wings.

HONORS

Please join us in honoring this year's Milton F. “Sonny” Clogg Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award winners and new inductees into the Montgomery College Athletic Hall of Fame. The awards ceremony will take place in April 2014.

2013 Milton F. “Sonny” Clogg Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award Recipients:

Marga C. Fripp '05

Founder, Empowered Women International

Pamela N. Saul '82

Accountant, Breslin & Young Financial Consultants, LLC
Treasurer/Office Manager
Rolling Hills Horse Stables and Show

“Rising Star” Young Alumni Recognition Award:

Dr. Amy H. Gueye '03

Resident Physician
OB-GYN Department
The Johns Hopkins Hospital

Montgomery College Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees:

Mark Crutchfield '91

Former Head Coach, Men's Basketball
Former Athletic Director
Montgomery College

Maurice Hicks '99

Football

Rob Moxley '90

Assistant Coach, Men's Basketball
North Carolina State University
Basketball

Coach Lisa Tehan

Health and PE Teacher
CYO Athletics Director
Girls' Lacrosse Coach
St. Jane Dechantal School
Tennis

For event information and tickets, visit www.montgomerycollege.edu/alumni, or contact the Alumni Office at 240-567-5378.

What's your story?

Send your updates and photos via e-mail to alumni@montgomerycollege.edu or online at www.montgomerycollege.edu/insights.

Photo Tips: A publication quality photo is high resolution, a minimum of 300 DPI. Set your digital camera to the highest image-quality setting (for most cameras, this is usually "Fine"). Send us your photo exactly as it comes out of the camera. Attach either a JPEG or a TIFF file to your e-mail. Because of space limitations, we are not able to publish every photo we receive.

1940s

Albert G. Schultz, Bliss '46, recently checked in. He writes:

"I graduated from Bliss Electrical School in May 1946. I worked for New England Telephone Co. and Verizon from June 1946 until my retirement in May 1987. I was a switch man on No. 5 X-Bar telephone equipment in the Keene-Manchester area. In 1961 and 1962, I was assigned to work on the Alaska DEW (during the Cold War with Russia) in the Anchorage and Kenai Peninsula area."

Mr. Schultz turned 94 in July.

1970s

Leslie "Les" Hatley '73 released his second solo CD, *Surge*, last year. He is active in the Songwriters Association of Washington, the Washington Area Music Association, and the DC Blues Society.



Courtesy Leslie Hatley

Carol Presley '73 is government relations manager for Acadia Insurance Company.



Bill Mills/MCPS

Karla Berg Walker '74, a retired Montgomery County Public Schools reading specialist, endowed a Montgomery College

Foundation scholarship in support of a new MC initiative, Achieving Collegiate Excellence and Success (ACES). A collaboration of the College, MCPS, and the Universities at Shady Grove, ACES launched this fall in 10 county high schools. It provides supportive coaching and individualized services for high school students to ensure successful transition, enrollment, and college completion.

Susan Dawn Carson '76 finished a concert/one-women show this spring at the Millibo Art Theatre, called *Comin' Home*. She is co-directing their new season's production of *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

April Chadderdon '79 produced several episodes of *Sesame Street* and has won multiple Emmy and PGA awards.

1980s

Tori Amos '83 released her latest album, *Gold Dust*, last year. The album hit the Billboard charts, and the hit single "Flavor" peaked at number one on the Hot Dance Club Play chart.



Courtesy Usa Bunnag

1990s

Dr. Usa Bunnag '90 celebrated the 10th anniversary of Smiles on Wings this fall. The Rockville-

based medical and dental service organization she founded continues to treat patients, and promote health and education in Thailand.

Michelle Whitlock '99 is a retail executive and advocate for women's cervical health and fertility options, as well as a national motivational speaker and author. Her work has been featured in *MAMM*, *Coping*, *Cure*, and *Redbook*. Last year she won a Reader's Favorite gold medal for nonfiction memoir, and she was a finalist in the women's health category of the USA Best Book Awards.

2000s

Daphnee Cherubin '03, former Women's Studies Club president at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus, was named president of Retouch International Ministries, based in Orlando, Fla. She oversees a four-year program for women and children, including assistance with housing and job training. She earned a BA in religious studies (Andrews University) and an MA in mental health counseling (Webster University); she is pursuing an MBA in public/nonprofit organization.

Daniel Bangura '04, featured in *Insights* spring 2013, earned his Maryland heating, ventilation, and air conditioning master's license. He currently works at Montgomery College.



Sanjay Suchak

Hayoon Jay Lee '07, performance artist and sculptor, was named visiting international artist at the Kwangju Museum of Art in South Korea in spring 2012. Lee, who lives and works in New York City, has exhibited her work nationally and internationally. She earned a BFA and an MFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art.

Yolanda Lindo RN '07 was featured in Washington Adventist Hospital's newsletter, *The Prism*, for using her talent in dance to raise funds for a local nursing scholarship.

2010s

Chris Dunckel '11 returned to the University of Miami, where he walked on to the Hurricanes' football team for the 2011 season. The 6' 3" defensive lineman previously set a school swimming record at St. John's College High School in Washington for the 100-yard breaststroke.

Jenny Eyer '11 was a venue technician at the 2013 Edinburgh Festival Fringe (Scotland) in August. She also worked as a stage manager this fall at the English Theatre Berlin.

Gianfranco J. Villar '13, surgical technology program graduate and pinning

ceremony speaker last May, was accepted into the University of Maryland School of Nursing for the RN to BSN program. He has worked at Suburban Hospital in the operating room as a certified surgical technologist, and as an RN.

We want YOU!

The Alumni Association is looking for former students to help coordinate events and activities for alumni, organize fundraising efforts, provide input on distribution of 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.



To volunteer, call 240-567-7951 or visit www.montgomerycollege.edu/alumni.

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This organization receives financial support for allowing Liberty Mutual to offer this auto and home insurance program.

* Discounts are available where state laws and regulations allow, and may vary by state. To the extent permitted by law, applicants are individually underwritten; not all applicants may qualify. Savings figure based on a February 2011 sample of auto policyholder savings when comparing their former premium with those of Liberty Mutual's group auto and home program. Individual premiums and savings will vary. Coverage provided and underwritten by Liberty Mutual Insurance and its affiliates, 175 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA. © 2012 Liberty Mutual Insurance.

Donald Drown

July 21, 2013

He taught physical education and was the men's basketball coach at Rockville for more than 30 years. In 1988, he was inducted as the first member of the College's Athletic Hall of Fame.

Bella Mischinsky '88

June 28, 2013

She was a past Alumni Association board member.

Catharine Bell Wetteroth

June 25, 2013

She was an instructional assistant in the humanities department at Rockville.

Robert N. "Bob" Covell

May 18, 2013

He was a retired construction trades worker at Rockville.

L. Thomas Aldrich '66

May 1, 2013

Barbara A. Stuck '66

April 23, 2013

Homai Behram

April 16, 2013

She was a professor of English at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus from 1972 to 2001.

Van C. Wall

April 16, 2013

He was a professor of humanities/social sciences at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus from 2003 to 2011.

Ronald Lee Phoebus '48

April 1, 2013

Frederick V. Gallion '70

March 29, 2013

William M. Benson

March 25, 2013

After serving as registrar and associate academic dean, he taught history and political science at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus until his retirement in 1986.

Edward C. Duncan '86

March 5, 2013



Reprinted: Insights 2012

Christopher R. Cox traveled and worked overseas during his distinguished journalism career. In this photo, shown previously in *Insights 2012*, Cox is pictured with a member of the Akha hill tribe in Ban Lorcha, Thailand.

Christopher R. Cox '75

(1955–2013)

As an award-winning journalist, then freelance travel writer, Cox often traveled overseas, often to Southeast Asia. His feature stories appeared in numerous journals, including *Conde Nast Traveler*, *Travel+Leisure*, *Audubon*, *ESPN: The Magazine*, and *Reader's Digest*. He received numerous awards for his reporting: he was honored at the National Press Club by the Eric Friedheim Travel Journalism Awards; in Hong Kong by the Society of Publishers in Asia (SOPA) Awards; and by Singapore's World Gourmet Summit. He published two books: *A Good Death* (2013), a novel, and *Chasing the Dragon: Into the Heart of the Golden Triangle* (1996), nonfiction.

Cox transferred to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on a full athletic scholarship for track. He earned two masters degrees: an MA, English (McGill University) and an MLS (Louisiana State University-Baton Rouge).

Savion Christian Gabriel '10

March 1, 2013

Paul Widem '94

January 30, 2013

Madelaine T. Husic '75

November 21, 2012

Dr. Bruce Carpenter '82

November 8, 2012

He was a past Alumni Association board member.

Carl M. Schwendinger '80

October 25, 2012

Anne E. Jeffers '73

October 15, 2012

She worked at the Ethiopian National Museum in Addis Ababa and the Kenya National Museum in Nairobi, and published museum journal articles in *Curator* and *Kenya Past and Present*.

Performance, ticket, and venue information online:

All Montgomery College Events
www.montgomerycollege.edu

Cultural Arts Center (CAC)
www.montgomerycollege.edu/cac

Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center (PAC)
www.montgomerycollege.edu/pac

Theatre

King Street Cultural Arts Night Celebration and Student Performing Arts Showcase. Join CAC and The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Arts Center for an evening featuring gallery exhibitions and student performances. December 6, 2013. CAC.

Spring Awakening. Student production of the Tony- and Grammy-Award winning musical. Set to a rock score, it tells the story of teenagers grappling with the inner and outer tumult of sexuality. February 26–March 2, 2014. PAC.

Music

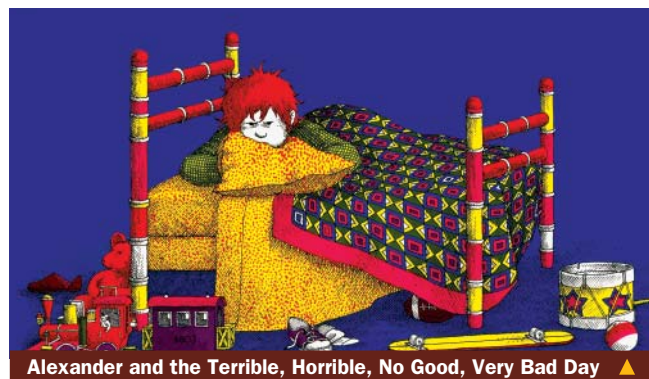
The State Capella of Russia: Russian Christmas. The Capella's first Christmas tour to the US includes masterpieces by Rachmaninoff, Bortnyansky, and Grechaninoff, as well as western classics and famous Christmas carols. December 12, 2013. PAC.

Vienna Concert-Verein Orchestra. Led by internationally renowned conductor Philippe Entremont, and featuring Grammy-nominated piano soloist Sebastian Knauer. February 1, 2014. PAC.

Verein Orchestra ▼



Courtesy Robert E. Parilla
 Performing Arts Center



Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day ▲

Courtesy Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day. Hilarious children's musical based on Judith Viorst's classic best-seller. March 8, 2014. PAC.

Art Exhibits

Cheryl Hochberg: Encounters. Paintings, drawings, and three-dimensional objects depicting animal encounters in dark and humorous ways. Through January 3, 2014. Open Gallery, The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Arts Center, Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus.

Jon Goell: A Photographic Retrospective. Photographic journeys by an esteemed photography faculty member. January 27–February 21, 2014. CAT Gallery, Technical Center, Rockville Campus.



Jon Goell: A Photographic Retrospective ▲

Jon Goell



Montgomery College Foundation Remembers

Holocaust survivor Bella Mischinsky's harrowing ordeal included surviving ghettos and escaping from concentration camps throughout Eastern Europe. Yet when she spoke to schoolchildren about her experiences, she promoted tolerance. In her 80's, Mischinsky volunteered at the College. She lent her story to the College-sponsored exhibit, "Portraits of Life: Holocaust Survivors of Montgomery County." Her involvement with MC students moved her to leave more than \$250,000 to the College, helping fund the Global Humanities Institute.

Discover how you can support global humanities education or become a member of the Legacy Society. Contact Carol Rognrud, executive director, Montgomery College Foundation, at 240-567-7493 or carol.rognrud@montgomerycollege.edu.

"I tell them not to hate, never to hate." —Bella Mischinsky '88 (1922–2013)



EXTRA! EXTRA!

Club Rush

Club Rush, featuring many of the nearly 30 student clubs and organizations on the Rockville Campus, is held at the beginning of each semester. New students can get involved in organizations including cultural, ethnic, religious, political, academic, and service clubs. Other organizations include Phi Theta Kappa (honor society), *The Advocate* (student newspaper), and the Student Senate.

Pete Vidal