

Spring 2014

the magazine for montgomery college alumni and friends

insights



MUSEUM-QUALITY
education

From the Alumni Association President

Montgomery County residents have been celebrated in three photographic exhibits, known as Portraits of Life, produced by the College's Paul Peck Humanities Institute. The first, from 2004, featured Holocaust survivors. The second depicted students from around the world who overcame incredible odds to pursue their education. A third set highlighted members of the county's LGBT community. Last November, all three series appeared together for the first time, at Pepco's Edison Gallery in Washington.

I'm proud that an Alumni Association leader appears in each set of those portraits. Two of them—Debbie Dwyer '80 and Dr. Usa Bunnag '90—joined Dr. Pollard and me at the opening reception to remember the late Bella Mischinsky '88, our longtime friend and supporter. The event coincided with the twentieth anniversary of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, a cause that was dear to Bella.

The Holocaust Museum has another tie to MC: an arrangement in which our students hold internships there, as well as at the Smithsonian museums and the Library of Congress. You'll read more about these partnerships, unique among community colleges, in this issue.

We also have a story of family ties to MC and the community. Graphic design professor Martha Vaughan has not one, but two siblings who hold the College's highest alumni honor, the Milton F. Clogg Award. Benjamin Vaughan '75 was recognized for his



Pete Vidal

Carol Leahy (left) and MC's president, Dr. DeRionne Pollard, celebrated the triple exhibition of the Portraits of Life series at Pepco's Edison Gallery. An Alumni Association board member was featured in each of the portrait series.

coaching of Richard Montgomery High School's mock trial team, his mentoring of juvenile offenders, and his fundraising for an orphanage in Tanzania. Judith Vaughan-Prather '69 is executive director of the Montgomery County Commission for Women—and a member of the Alumni Association's governing board.

I look forward to making the association's community involvement even more visible as the College welcomes Karla Silvestre as its director of community engagement, helping to strengthen MC's involvement in county life.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge the wonderful help of my fellow officers, board members, and volunteers, who have made our programs and scholarship efforts a success during my two years as your association's president. Your continuing moral and financial support makes our College, and our community, shine brilliantly.

Carol W. Leahy '74
Alumni Association President

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The Montgomery College Alumni Association welcomes former students interested in helping to coordinate events and activities for alumni, organize fundraising efforts, 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. **Montgomery College Alumni Office** 40 West Gude Drive, Suite 110, Rockville, MD 20850 **E-mail** alumni@montgomerycollege.edu **Online** montgomerycollege.edu/alumni **Facebook** facebook.com/mcalumniassociation

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insights

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

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A family tree flourishes at Montgomery College



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About the Cover

Jessica Lindsay '13 snagged a coveted internship at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. She is pictured here in the museum's mineralogy collection room. Lindsay conducts research that may help geologists understand how and why certain minerals and rocks were formed. Photographer Pete Vidal.





WITH APPRECIATION

Flora Singer was my mother. I want to thank you for including the article and photo (fall 2013, "News and Views") about the new school named in her honor. I just wanted you to know that she became a teacher after attending Montgomery College and the University of Maryland, where she earned her BA and master's degrees before qualifying to be a Montgomery County school teacher. She was also part of the Honors Learning Community at the University of Maryland as well. Montgomery College provides a rich learning environment for immigrants, and those starting their education later in life, such as my mother. Although she came to the USA in 1946, and earned her GED before moving to Maryland, it was at Montgomery College where her education started in earnest. I remember she was very nervous about whether she would be able to succeed and function among students half her age. She flourished and succeeded beyond her wildest imagination. Due in part to the excellent faculty, and the environment at the Rockville Campus, which supported a middle-age Belgian immigrant and helped her fulfill her lifelong dream of completing her education and becoming a well-respected educator.

*Sandra Singer Landsman
Potomac, Md.*

REMEMBERING WHEN

I was happy to see the mention of Professor Scott in the spring issue of *Insights* (2013, "Then and Now"). I had forgotten her name, but as soon as I saw the photograph, I knew she had been the instructor of the typing class I took in the fall of 1961. I've often thought that, with the advent of the keyboard age, it was perhaps the most valuable course I ever took.

*Tom Bogley '62
Nine Mile Falls, Wash.*

A SHOW OF SUPPORT

I greatly appreciated your cover story, "Life After War: Finding a New Mission," (fall 2012). I'm inspired by Specialist Broglin's resilience and his determination to help others by furthering his education. I wish him my best in his future endeavors. Montgomery College has had an enduring impact on me and my family. I'm reminded of that each time I read your magazine.

*Tracy W. Messer '79
Peterborough, NH*

SELF-MOTIVATED

It was a lot of fun to be a part of [the "Help Wanted" story (spring 2013)], and seeing the magazine gives me more excitement and motivation to stay on track toward my goal to complete the apprenticeship and become a journeyman.

*Lily Landau '12
Rockville, Md.*



SEND A LETTER

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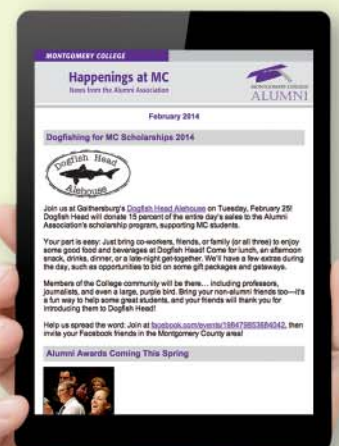
Insights reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity, and style. Letters must include the writer's full name, address, phone number, e-mail, and class year (or year(s) of attendance).

SEND A TWEET

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ALUMNI E-NEWS

Check your inbox: a newly redesigned newsletter, "Happenings at MC," launched in December. The bimonthly, online-only publication features Alumni Association activities, scholarship stories, and opportunities to engage with the College. To update your address, visit montgomerycollege.edu/alumni or send an e-mail with the subject line "Subscribe" to alumni@z with your name, Alumni membership number, and class year.



OUT AND ABOUT



1

1. Step Afrika! wowed the crowd at the Cultural Arts Center (CAC) during National Humanities Month. **2.** "Portraits of Life" exhibit series opened at Pepco Edison Place Gallery in Washington, DC, featuring all three original exhibits: Holocaust Survivors (2004), Student Stories (2008), and LGBT Stories (2013). **3.** Discovery Communications panel on careers in digital media and advertising filled the house (CAC). **4.** MC United: soccer matches created goodwill on International Peace Day. **5.** April = Artwalk, five days of student projects and performances—rain or shine. **6.** We've got spirit, yes we do! **7.** Artwork by Edward Cotten-Rowland '11, inspired by his study abroad in China.



2



3



4



5



6



7

Photography by Pete Vidal

Construction Zone



Photos by Pete Vidal

Top, the Bioscience Education Center nears completion. Above, a new study area in the Science East building on the Rockville Campus.

Around the College

Watch for construction and/or renovation of the Science and Applied Studies building (G); Science West (R); North Garage (R); and Pavilion 3 (TP/SS). The College also refurbished all libraries to create a consistent look and feel.

Renovations on Science

East wrapped up in time for the spring 2014 semester. The project added much-needed study areas,

classrooms, and meeting space for small groups.

The Goldenrod Building at Germantown was renamed the Paul Peck Academic and Innovation Building last November to honor longtime College supporter Paul L. Peck.

At Germantown, construction nears completion on the new Bioscience Education Center, the Goldenrod Lane extension, and Holy Cross Germantown Hospital.

Professor of the Year Honored

Kudos keep coming for **Dr. Greg Wahl, 2013 Maryland Professor of the Year**. Montgomery County Council President Craig Rice issued a proclamation honoring Wahl's teaching excellence during the council's January session.

"I'm not really doing anything differently than my faculty colleagues," said Wahl at the event. "All of the things you just heard [in the proclamation] are what they are doing every day at Montgomery College."

Wahl came to MC in 2003 as director of the Writing, Reading, and Language Center at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus; in 2007, he joined the English Department. Currently, he teaches composition and developmental writing; facilitates 10–20 sections of developmental writing courses per semester; and helps secure scholarships for MC students. He has been involved in numerous work groups, committees, and programs—all aimed at helping students.

The US Professors of the Year program, sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), salutes the most outstanding undergraduate instructors in the country. It is recognized as one of the most prestigious awards honoring professors.



Pete Vidal

From left to right, Craig Rice, Montgomery County Council president; Greg Wahl; and DeRionne P. Pollard, Montgomery College president.

Got MOOC? Update

The answer was “yes” for the **711 people who enrolled** last fall in Get Ready for College English, **MC’s first massive open online course (MOOC)**.

A MOOC differs from a traditional online course in that it is usually free, noncredit, and features huge enrollment.

The course, designed to prepare students to test into a college-level English course, also aimed to increase access for students who aren’t able to pay for a course.

From Afghanistan to Zimbabwe (and even the United States), participants included middle and high school students—with representation from home-schooled students—college students, working

professionals, students studying English, and even faculty from colleges and universities.

“What surprised us, besides the sheer number of students who signed up, was how many international students found the course,” said English Professor Emily Rosado, who designed the MOOC with Dr. Mike Mills, director of distance education and learning technologies.

Rosado, who used the MOOC to supplement her face-to-face course, said her students enjoyed interacting with people from around the world. Many participants plan to take the course again.

Virtues of the Virtual Classroom

Professor Emily Rosado On Why Online Courses Click with Students

Focus

An online course gives me the opportunity to get to know each student and guide him or her thoughtfully without the pressures of watching the clock or worrying about answering every question in one class period.

Equality

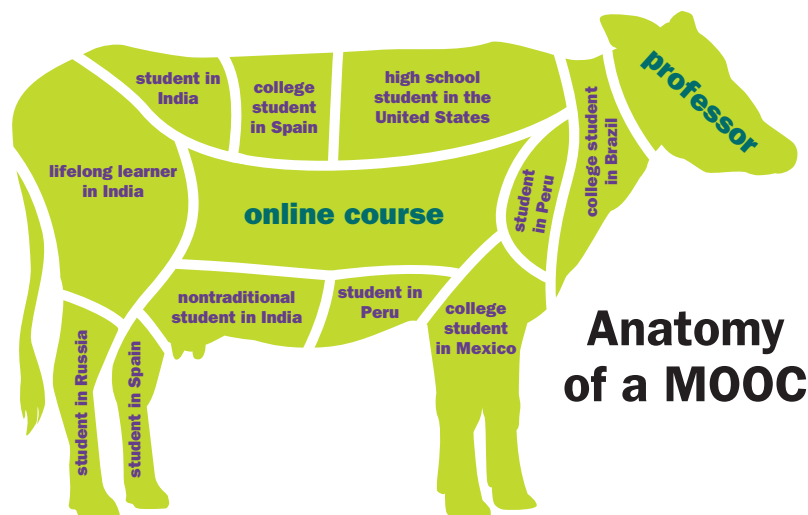
Students in an online course do not have to be embarrassed about their accent, worried about their appearance, or distracted by students who are not paying attention. There are no students hiding in the back of the classroom. All students have a voice and everyone’s work is equally respected throughout course interactions.

Convenience

Students of all ages are becoming more comfortable with doing things virtually, thanks to the ubiquity of smart phones and tablets. The technology proved to be a real life-saver last semester with all of the weather-related disruptions. My online courses continued smoothly without any need for rescheduling work or extending deadlines.

Results

Across the variety of courses I teach online—composition, literature, and journalism—I see a common denominator: students gain new perspectives from the course material and from ideas shared by their peers, which encourages them to be more open-minded.



Anatomy of a MOOC

MC MOOC Attracts Students Around World



Emily Rosado, professor of English, was named a finalist for the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Award of Excellence in Faculty Innovation, and was also named the Individual of the Year in Higher Education by the Maryland Distance Learning Association. Rosado began teaching at MC in 2004.

Global Exchange

Faculty members **Marcia Bronstein**, **Shelley Jones**, and **Rita Kranidis**, of the Global Humanities Institute (GHI), met with indigenous people, artists, a women's collective, public school teachers and principals, youth organizations, and historians in **El Salvador** last summer. The trio also met with university leaders to discuss the community college model and MC's student advising, developmental programs, and student support services.

"Our work in Morazan is the beginning of a long-term collaboration that will support teaching and learning there," says Kranidis, GHI director.

The next exchange of 16 faculty, staff, and administrators is slated for 2016. GHI prepares students to succeed in the global economy by expanding the study of diverse countries, peoples, and cultures worldwide. In addition to El Salvador, it has partnered MC with educational institutions in China and India.



Courtesy Rita Kranidis

Back row, from right to left, Rita Kranidis, Shelley Jones, and Marcia Bronstein met public school teachers, students, and principals in El Salvador last summer.



New Interpretation Service

Families fluent in languages other than English now have the **opportunity to acquire information in their primary language** through the aid of a new over-the-phone interpreter (OPI). This service provides interpretation in more than 200 languages and can be accessed at the College's Welcome Centers, Enrollment Services, Counseling, Financial Aid, and Assessment Centers. Contact: Natalie.Thompson@montgomerycollege.edu or 240-567-5038.

Worth Her Weight in Gold

Metal artist and professor Komelia Okim retired last fall after more than 40 years. A Fulbright senior scholar, Okim conducted more than 120 metal technique workshops and lectures in the United States, Canada, China, Russia, Europe, and Asia. She also curated and exhibited in national and international expositions and symposiums, including the 2011 World Taiwan Expo. The College honored Okim for her lifelong achievements with a retrospective of her work at the Sarah Silberman Art Gallery (Rockville Campus).



Courtesy Komelia Okim



Pete Vidal

Beauty of STEM

Miss America 2014, Nina Davuluri, dropped by campus to promote STEM education and cultural competency. Davuluri, a STEM graduate of University of Michigan, recently completed medical school requirements at Le Moyne College in New York. She is the first Indian American and second Asian American chosen Miss America. Davuluri's event, "Revealing the Beauty of STEM," can be viewed at youtube.com/montgomerycollege.

Employers to Higher Ed: We Still Need the Humanities

It takes more to succeed in business than spreadsheets and negotiation skills, say employers surveyed by the American Association of Colleges and Universities (April 2013). In the report, “It Takes More Than a Major: Employer Priorities for College Learning and Student Success,” employers defined a workforce-ready candidate as someone with research and/or internship experience, community engagement, business ethics, and intercultural skills. They also favor candidates who will pursue ongoing professional development.

A global management consulting firm, Accenture, partnered with the College in 2011 to help MC students and faculty understand corporate expectations for new hires. Accenture executives conducted their own presentation/discussion series, “So You Want To Be a CEO—Skills to Succeed” at each campus. In addition to hosting MC students at corporate meetings and tours at the firm’s Alexandria, Va., headquarters, Accenture included students in its annual day of service in Washington, DC. Now in its fourth year, the partnership has benefited thousands of students, and has been recognized nationally as a model program for enriching curricula for business students (Aspen Institute 2013).



Sanjay Suchak

In the report, “It Takes More than a Major: Employer Priorities for College Learning and Student Success,” more than 300 employers cited urgent needs for qualified employees. (Hart Research Associates, for the Association of American Colleges and Universities).



95%

need innovators



93%

look for critical thinkers



90%

search for candidates who understand business ethics and other cultures



75%

asked colleges to emphasize these workforce-ready skills



59%

believe in classroom time devoted to dialogue, debate, and problem solving



Sanjay Suchak

More Seniors, More Options

Last fall, the Lifelong Learning Institute and Nonprofit Leadership Institute (Workforce Development & Continuing Education), led by Program Director Natasha Sacks, **saw a 30-percent increase in enrollments of senior citizens.** The program introduced 24 new courses last year, and it established an advisory/working committee to assess community needs. The Nonprofit Leadership Institute introduced two new Boot Camps, one for entry-level professionals and another for entry-level supervisors.

And the Winners Are...



Sanjay Suchak

The annual event honoring outstanding alumni took place April 25 at the Rockville Campus. Marga C. Fripp '05, Pamela N. Saul '82, and "Rising Star" Young Alumni awardee Dr. Amy H. Gueye '03 received the Milton F. Clogg Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award for demonstrating exemplary service to their community, profession, and/or to Montgomery College. This year's Athletic Hall of Fame inductees were Mark Crutchfield '91, Maurice Hicks '99, Rob Moxley '90, and Coach Lisa Tehan. To view event photos, visit flickr.com/montgomerycollege.



Pete Vidal

Dogfishing for MC

The Alumni Association held the third annual Dogfishing for MC Scholarships in February.

The all-day fundraiser for the association's student scholarship program received a percentage of Dogfish Head Alehouse's (Gaithersburg, Md.) total receipts. Alumni and friends also donated silent auction items. Alumni Association Board of Governors member Debra Dywer '80 wore her new Raptors gear for the event.

Alumni Athlete Honored

The MC Athletics Department recognized alumni athlete and 2014 Semi-Pro Football Hall of Fame Athlete Patrick Cole '88 earlier this year. A two-year starter as offensive tackle for the MC Knights in 1986 and 1987, Cole earned first team Region 20 all-conference honors both years. He later played with numerous semi-pro football teams, including the Virginia Storm, Baltimore Bears, DC Stonewalls, and Montgomery County Invaders. He also played overseas for teams in Vienna, Austria, France, the Czech Republic, and Great Britain. In 2005, he returned stateside to continue his career in Hawaii, Baltimore, and Virginia.



Pete Vidal

Collegiate Competitors

After placing second in 2012, and third in 2013, **this year's student team won first place** in the **National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Construction Management Competition**, held in Las Vegas. The MC team competed against two- and four-year institutions from around the country. A joint effort between architecture and construction management programs, the competition represents an opportunity for students to learn how the industry works.

Student Winners



The **MC Cyberwatch Club team** took first place in the Community College Division of the 2013 Digital Forensics Challenge, an international competition organized by the Department of Defense's Cyber Crime Center. The team beat out 11 other entrants.



Architectural technology students placed second in the Maryland Sustainable Growth Challenge. They presented their ideas for a sustainable community to the Maryland Department of Planning in Annapolis.



Students **Alex Getachew, Yi Liu, and Sandra Nouketcha** won the Cumberland Valley Math Modeling Challenge, making it a second consecutive win for MC.



MC interior design student Zhara Keihani placed third in the Unity in Style student design competition, sponsored by the High Point (North Carolina) Design Center.



Enrollment by the Numbers (2013)

Who We Are



53%
Female



47%
Male

32%
Black

29%
White

23%
Hispanic/Latino

14%
Asian

2%
Other

40%
Under 20

38%
21-29 Years

22%
Over 30

26 Average Age

Where We Live (In Montgomery County)



40%

students reside
in upper
Montgomery County



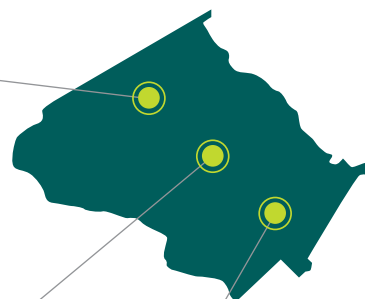
37%

students reside
in the middle of
Montgomery County



22%

students reside in lower
Montgomery County



Where We Come From

164
countries
represented

29%
non-US citizens
(7,614)



The majority of our international students come from these areas of the world.

Living a Memorable Life

Alumna Su Meck's Experiences Subject of New Book

Imagine awakening one day and not recognizing your husband or your two children, and having no memory of your life. This unbelievable-but-true story happened at 22 years old to Su Meck '11 who suffered a traumatic brain injury when a ceiling fan fell on her head. Published this past February by Simon & Schuster, *I Forgot to Remember: A Memoir of Amnesia* documents Meck's struggle and eventual triumph in relearning how to read, care for her herself and her family, and even graduate from Montgomery College.

Written with *Washington Post* reporter Daniel de Visé, *I Forgot to Remember* was inspired by de Visé's front page story celebrating Meck's 2011 graduation from Montgomery College. Meck transferred to Smith College in Massachusetts and graduated this month.

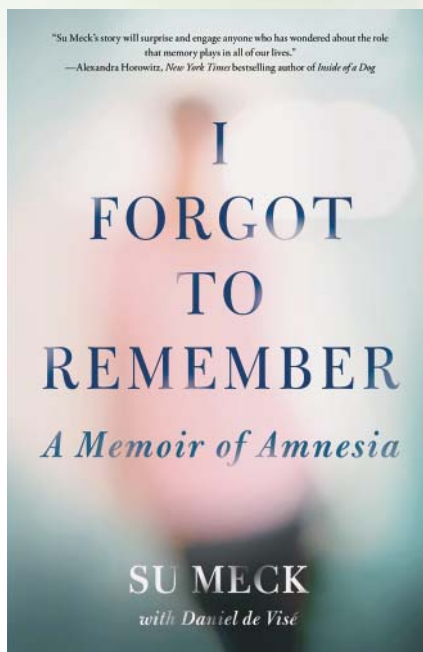


Jared Leeds

Following is an excerpt from Chapter 22, "Learning to Fly," in which Meck describes her experiences at Montgomery College:

Montgomery College saved my life. That probably sounds superdramatic, but it's the truth. The people at Montgomery College saved me and gave me a life. Yes. That is probably a truer statement. All that, and they taught me how to love learning. And I guess how to learn how to *learn*—instead of just mimicking. When I was learning everything along with my kids as they went through school, I was mostly copying. Copying is not the same as learning. Not that I didn't learn stuff from my kids by copying, but the "reason" piece was missing. The "why am I doing this?" part of learning was missing. At Montgomery College, I wasn't allowed to just copy. I had to show every single step of how I got to the answer of an algebra problem. I had to write an essay explaining why there were advantages in looking at the world through a sociological lens. I had to give an oral presentation about Susan Graham and explain what the incredible mezzo-soprano contributed to the world of opera. I had to think about and come up with ideas on my own.

...The learning I was able to figure out how to do at Montgomery College had everything to do with me. Not in a gross, selfish way, but in a this-professor-is-here-teaching-his-class-today-and-I-am-a-student-here-to-learn way. And that was new. I was the student who was sitting in that class. I was writing down things in my notebook that I thought were important. Nobody was telling me exactly what to write down. If I wanted something clarified, I had to speak up and ask the professor a question. If I didn't ask, I might never know the answer. I couldn't depend on other people in the class to have the exact same questions I had. This may all sound very trivial and basic, but to me it was *huge*! I was



not only learning subject content, whether it be algebra, music history, sociology, or environmental biology, I was also learning to speak up for myself. Nobody was at college with me, talking for me, answering for me, studying for me, writing for me, doing for me. I did stuff by myself. And I learned I was pretty darn good at this whole learning business. Once I started learning, I just wanted to know more, and more, and more.

...Tests made me nervous because I was always worried I wouldn't be able to read or write somehow on the day one was given. Writing papers made me nervous because I still felt like such an amateur when writing them, and I didn't really know what I was doing. Everyone just assumed that I knew how to research a topic. I didn't. Cassidy [my daughter] held my hand and walked me baby step by baby step through those first few papers. I learned about the Writing, Reading, and Language Center in the basement of the library right before I graduated. Oh, well.

The professors at Montgomery College were there because they loved to teach. Most of my classes there were smallish, no more than twenty or thirty students, some much smaller, and the professors knew the names of their students just a week or two into each semester. The professors were happy to help in whatever way they could. They wanted students to be successful. I don't know why, but I was continually amazed by that fact. Sharon Ward was my environmental biology professor my very last semester before graduating. There was one unit where we had to know how to balance simple equations. I had no idea what that meant or how to do it. Cassidy had enrolled at Barnard College in New York City at this point, so I couldn't ask her for help. I went and talked to Professor Ward and explained that I had never done any of this equation-balancing business before. She sat with me in her office for nearly an hour right then and there and taught me how to balance equations. Professor Bill Coe was my teacher for both pre-algebra and Algebra I. He could probably teach math to a rock, I'm not kidding, and he spent so much extra time with me trying to explain in varied and differing ways how to factor equations. Professor Coe figured out that my basic issue with factoring was that I did not yet know all my multiplication tables automatically. These are just two of the many examples of Montgomery College professors going above and beyond any typical teaching duties, and I will always be eternally grateful for all of the time they gave to me.

But one of the most important things I learned from my professors at Montgomery College was to be honest about who I was and what I had been through. I met Professor Sue Adler at the Awards Assembly for Phi Theta

"Montgomery College saved my life."

—Su Meck



James McClain

Kappa, the honor society for two-year colleges, in the spring of 2008. She mentioned during that assembly that she was the faculty adviser for Phi Theta Kappa, and that students would have the opportunity to interview with her if they were interested in becoming Phi Theta Kappa officers for the 2008–2009 school year. Since I was newly inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, I was feeling smart and courageous. I knew those feelings wouldn't last long, so I spoke to Sue during the reception following the assembly, thinking that she would ask me to make an appointment with her. Instead, she said, "Great! Write down your name, phone number and e-mail for me and I'll contact you as to when our first planning meeting will be during the summer." I guess I was in. That was certainly easy. I loved being part of the Phi Theta Kappa board, and I grew to love Sue Adler and the other faculty adviser, Brian Baick. Sue is one of those people who only surround themselves with other practical and hardworking people. She knows everything about Montgomery College and everyone who has anything to do with the school. She and her husband, Bill, a retired MC professor, are both full of energy and positivity.

It was during my time as an officer for the honor society that I began to open up about the story of my head injury and my journey back to school. Marianne, the group's president that year, wanted all of us to show up at the first planning meeting of second semester with a bag of objects that meant something to us personally, in order to

promote a kind of bonding or team spirit among all of us officers. One of the objects in my bag was the Dr. Seuss book *Hop on Pop*. I explained to everyone that the book was the first one I had ever read, and that I was twenty-two years old when I read it. I had never spoken to anyone other than my family and very close friends about any of this, so I have no idea what exactly prompted me to tell these fellow students and advisers the tale. Each person in that room was shocked, and when I finished speaking, everyone just stared at me. I was embarrassed and immediately regretted my decision about saying anything. But I had read their reactions incorrectly. It wasn't "Wow! She's odd." Or, "You poor thing." Or, "Get out of here, you weirdo!" It wasn't any of those things. I don't know what it was exactly, but it wasn't anything critical. And after that, I felt a little less afraid, having gotten it off my chest.

Soon I was telling more and more people my story. After that meeting, Sue talked to Gus Griffin, one of the psychology professors and counselors at MC who specialized in memory. Gus wanted me to come and speak to his class about my injury and my life since. I said yes, simply because I couldn't say no to professors, especially Sue.

...I ended up speaking to Gus's classes every semester my last two years at Montgomery College.

...Sue Adler told me about the Paul Peck Humanities Institute [internship] program in the spring of 2010. There were opportunities for students at Montgomery College to intern for a semester at the Smithsonian, the Holocaust Museum, and the Library of Congress. The application process was grueling, but Jim helped me to write out a résumé, and assisted with endless essay revisions. I heard in August that I had been accepted to intern that fall in the music division at the Library of Congress. I could not have been more surprised, excited, and nervous all at the same time.

...My assignment at the Library of Congress that fall was to help organize and digitally catalog thousands of pieces of Civil War sheet music so they could be seen, accessed, and utilized by anyone in the world. The 150th anniversary of the Civil War was just around the corner, and this sheet-music project was to be part of a larger Civil War exhibition. My direct supervisor at the

library was Mary Wedgewood. I was a little afraid of her at first because my typing and computer skills were less than adequate for such a task as this. I felt her frustration with me, and that made me nervous. But as time passed I grew to really love and respect her. (And my skills improved a bit, too). Mary encouraged me to go to the many varied noontime talks that were offered to library staff, everyone from authors, to historians, to scientists, to performing artists, to international celebrities. She invited me to meetings, took me to underground stacks, introduced me to lots of people, and got me involved in the annual Book Festival held on the National Mall. Mary genuinely wanted me to understand that the music division and my single project in that division was just one small part of the history and mission of the library. My experiences that semester were extraordinary.

As graduation from Montgomery College approached, I began thinking, what's next? Sue Adler had invited me to roundtable talks with admissions officers from Mount Holyoke College and Smith College. Both schools were small, elite women's colleges in western Massachusetts that had first-rate programs for nontraditional students. Both schools were highly competitive, with rigorous application procedures, but Sue thought I was up to the task. She always had more confidence in me than I ever had in myself. I was accepted to Mount Holyoke College, Smith College, and Columbia University. It was a tremendously difficult decision, but in the end, Smith felt like the right choice.

...Graduation itself was a blur of constant adrenaline. Everything from putting on my cap and gown, to lining up and walking to a huge tent with my fellow graduates, to speeches and receiving my diploma, to pictures, hugs, and congratulations. I can't remember a happier day. ■

From **I FORGOT TO REMEMBER** by Su Meck with Daniel de Visé. Copyright © 2014 by Susan E. Meck. Reprinted by permission of Simon & Schuster, Inc.

"Graduation itself was a blur of constant adrenaline. Everything from putting on my cap and gown, to lining up and walking to a huge tent with my fellow graduates, to speeches and receiving my diploma, to pictures, hugs, and congratulations. I can't remember a happier day."

—Su Meck



Sanjay Suchak

Save 20% on *I Forgot to Remember* when you purchase at MC Books & More at montgomerycollege.edu/bookstore. **Are you an MC author (alumni or faculty)?** If you have published a book recently, send us the details. E-mail your name, alumni year, book title, publication date, a short description of the book (100 words or less), and a high-resolution JPEG file of the book cover to editor@montgomerycollege.edu.

By Cynthia Pfanstiehl

ARCHAEOLOGY IN MARYLAND

DISCOVERIES CLOSE TO HOME

One myth commonly expressed by our international students, who are more accustomed to archaeological sites dating back thousands—not hundreds—of years, is that Maryland archaeologists only investigate “recent” sites dating from the colonial period through the nineteenth century. Students are often surprised to learn that certain Paleoindian sites in Maryland date back as far as 12,000 years ago. Once informed and involved, these students discover Maryland history is far more complex and interesting than they originally thought.

Nearly 150 anthropology students excavated an archaeological site for the first time this spring semester. During their excavations at the site of Nathan Browning’s Tavern, an establishment that operated in Montgomery County from 1807 until the 1840s, students enjoyed the process of discovery; made predictions about what they would find; and recorded every oyster shell, bottle fragment, and button unearthed.

Community engagement, historic preservation, and public education were all part of this project: students learned the methods required to excavate in accordance with Maryland state standards, and interpreted the site by relating the artifacts recovered to the site’s past occupants and history. The team will work closely with the property owner to create a permanent display of artifacts from the dig and a timeline of the Browning’s Tavern history for the community general store.

Field work is an essential aspect of every subfield of anthropology. All MC

professors who teach AN 105, Human Evolution and Archaeology, have completed excavations at sites in the United States and some abroad, in Guatemala and Africa. While digging in Montgomery County seems tame in comparison, local sites provide ample opportunities to continue research, prepare technical reports, and present findings.

The Browning’s Tavern project is just one of many digs anthropology faculty and students have been involved with over the past 15 years. Many of these archaeological investigations have been conducted in conjunction with the Archaeology



Archaeology students at the Browning’s Tavern Site. Heather Schramm ’12 (left), who went on to major in anthropology at Coastal Carolina University, with Iris Schauerma ’09, ’12, Marie Meroney ’13, and Kirill Vysokolov ’12. Schauerma and Vysokolov are currently anthropology majors at the University of Maryland.

Courtesy Cynthia Pfanstiehl



Students from the College's Human Evolution and Archaeology course excavated a test square at the James Hanson Miles site located in Little Bennett Regional Park.

Program Division of Montgomery Parks. This mutually beneficial relationship allows Montgomery College to work on sites located on park property.

In a project coordinated by Professor Eugenia Robinson, students and faculty detailed the excavations and history of Falling Green, a circa-1770 Georgian/early Federal style home. The resulting report was submitted for review to the Maryland Historical Trust; it will become a permanent addition to the research library at the Trust. Last year, faculty presented at the Archaeological Society of Maryland meetings and the Montgomery County History Conference.

In 2011, three students from the honors tutorial course, Field Archaeology in Montgomery County, collaborated with me to develop a GIS (geographic information systems) model for locating areas in which prehistoric sites are most likely to be found. It was an exciting opportunity to be part of a project focusing on the preservation of Native American sites in the county.

We submitted the culminating report, "Prehistoric Sensitivity Model for Locating Sites within Little Bennett Regional Park," to Montgomery Parks for planning purposes. We presented at the local Archaeological Society of Maryland chapter meeting.

Dr. Mary Gallagher, now retired, has ensured that anthropology research opportunities continue well into the future. She established the Anthropology Matters Grant with the Montgomery College Foundation in 2009 for faculty research and projects. Gallagher's second contribution, the Rookie

Research Grant, will support independent study tuition for serious anthropology students, giving them experience working one-on-one with a professor.

Other students have completed internships through the College's Paul Peck Humanities Institute at the Smithsonian Institution, where they had immediate contact with researchers. Some have gone on to advanced study at the University of Maryland and other four-year institutions.

CERTAIN PALEOINDIAN SITES IN MARYLAND DATE BACK AS FAR AS 12,000 YEARS AGO.



Students from the College's Archaeological Investigations course opened two new excavation units at the Zeigler Log House during a summer field session in 2012. They completed work on exposing remains of the cabin's chimney.

Heather Schramm '12, now an anthropology major at Coastal Carolina University, recently completed a summer internship as an archaeological assistant at the Horry County Office of Planning and Zoning, and she secured a paid position as a lab assistant at the university.

"As an archaeology student at Montgomery College, I was given a number of research opportunities, which taught me how to put together a site report using my research from the field," says Schramm. ■



Cynthia Pfanstiehl, associate professor of anthropology, has worked as a staff archaeologist for four different companies. She was recently a principal investigator and research historian at Archaeological

Testing and Consulting in Silver Spring, Md. She has managed both prehistoric and historic investigations at sites throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. She began teaching at Montgomery College in 2001.



The Raptor

Ushering in a new era in sports—and giving modern

Die-hard fans may remember “Malice at the Palace,” the basketball game-turned-mêlée between the NBA’s Indiana Pacers and Detroit Pistons in 2004. That aside, November 19 held no significance in the annals of sports history—until now.

On November 19, 2013, the new Montgomery College Raptors mascot “took flight” in front of a capacity crowd at the Rockville Campus, capping a two-year transition to become a One College athletics program.

In its illustrious 60-plus year history, the College won hundreds of Maryland Junior College Athletic Organization (MD JUCO) championships, as well as several National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) titles, with many teams from Germantown, Rockville, and Takoma Park.

During that time, thousands of student athletes suited up in burgundy, green, or blue uniforms to represent the Knights, Gryphons, and Falcons, respectively. High school basketball coaching legend Morgan Wootten '52 played guard at Takoma Park, NBA great Jerome Williams '94 dominated at Germantown, and Sonia Basma '11 led Rockville's women's soccer team to a national championship in 2011.

That year, an NJCAA rule change allowed students attending a multicampus school to play for another campus, provided that no other campuses had that same sport. To comply with the NJCAA, Montgomery College merged all sports with multiple teams under the “one college, one team” concept.

The Raptors became the College's official name in March 2012, after a vote from students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

But the College decided to take community involvement one step further by launching a design competition for faculty, staff, students, and alumni to envision the look of the mascot. After receiving more than 70 entries, art student Felipe Collazo '13 submitted the winning entry. He spent the summer refining his design with the College's Office of Communications, in anticipation of the November 19 unveiling.

Collazo, a native of Uruguay, said the Raptor spoke to his own experience as a Montgomery College student. “I wanted to create a design that reflected the determination, intelligence, and diversity that makes up the Montgomery College student body,” he said.

Turn the page for more on Raptor athletes and the

EVOLUTION OF MONTGOMERY COLLEGE'S MASCOTS

1946

Montgomery Junior College opens. Because only night classes were offered, the mascot became the Knights.



1965

Rockville Campus opens. The Knights move to the Rockville Campus. Takoma Park Campus adopts the Falcon mascot.



Michael Simone

Takes Flight

athletes their wings

By Jill Fitzgerald



mascot designer.

Pete Vidal

1978

Germantown Campus opens. Germantown adopts the Gryphon as its mascot.



2012

NJCAA rule change prompts the College to adopt a “one college, one team” concept. The new mascot becomes the Raptor.



2013

Montgomery College reveals the new, bird-of-prey Raptor athletics logo and mascot.

Raptor Athletes

Montgomery College athletes do not receive scholarship money to play sports. They often juggle many obligations in pursuit of their dreams. These are three athletes who not only wear the uniform, but also embody the spirit of a Raptor.

Determined to Keep Her Eyes on Her Dreams

Nicole Cunningham arrived at the College in August 2013 with aspirations of playing in the WNBA. The 21 year old, once recruited by women's basketball powerhouses such as Duke and University of Maryland, wanted to "get back to what I love doing," she said.

What kept Cunningham out of the game for nearly three years? The birth of her other two loves—her children, Harmony (3 years old) and DeSean (2 years old) Harvey. "Having children made me more focused and more determined to make my dream come true," Cunningham said. "But now, I have a back-up plan."

"I want to be a pediatric nurse. I want to help people with young children the way people have helped me," she said. She plans to get an associate's degree in nursing at the College, and transfer to a four-year school to play basketball and complete a bachelor's degree in nursing.

Cunningham, a 6' 2" center, led the team in rebounds with 9.7 per game. She finished among the top scorers, with 14.3 points per game.

Cunningham said the team concept extends beyond the basketball court. "Sometimes I have to bring my kids to



practice," she said. "Everyone—coaches and players alike—helps me with the kids. It's like a family."

After a Long Flight, He Found His Footing

Gabriel Ndiaye, a 20-year-old freshman, tried out for the Raptors men's soccer team in August 2013 after seeing a flier in the Rockville Campus library. Coach Pedro Braz hadn't recruited Ndiaye—in fact, he didn't even know him.

Encouraged by his cousin and his aunt, Ndiaye, a native of Gambia, a West African nation, came to the United States to attend Montgomery College.

"I tried out just to have fun," he said. "I didn't know it was that serious." Ndiaye impressed the coaches, even though he'd never played organized soccer.

HATCHING AN IDEA THAT TOOK OFF

In his spring 2012 graphic design class, Felipe Collazo '13 took on an optional assignment from Professor Valerie Burghardt: designing the College's new Raptor mascot. "I'd always wanted to do a sports-styled illustration, so it was

a great opportunity," said Collazo.

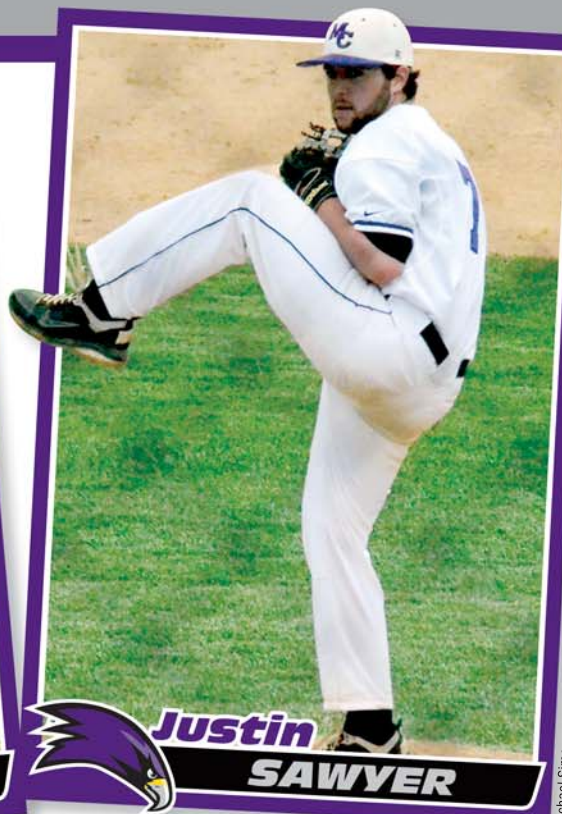
Collazo's illustration bested more than 70 designs submitted by students, faculty, staff, and alumni for the mascot competition, providing the new look for Montgomery College's Raptors.





**Gabriel
NDIAYE**

Michael Simone



**Justin
SAWYER**

Michael Simone

Ndiaye saw little action the first few games. "I had to adapt my style," he said, "I had to learn to come to the ball."

It didn't take long for Ndiaye to find his footing. By the end of the season, he led the nation in goals scored (35), he helped the Raptors to a berth in the NJCAA Division III Soccer Tournament, and he earned first team All-American honors.

Coach Braz said Ndiaye's play will likely earn him more accolades next season. "There's a lot of recruiting interest in Gabriel," said Braz, "Schools like Ohio State, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), and University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), to name a few."

"Next year I would like to score more goals—and to help my team to win a national championship," said Ndiaye. "But to get a scholarship to play soccer would be a dream come true."

Talon-ted on the Mound and in the Classroom

Justin Sawyer '13 wanted to follow his family's tradition of attending the University of Maryland. To save money, the home-schooled student, who played high school baseball at Covenant Life School, accepted a Board of Trustees academic scholarship to attend Montgomery College. He wasn't seeking athletic fame, but he wanted to continue playing baseball.

After sitting out most of his first year with a shoulder injury, the right-handed pitcher helped his team to a 2013 MD JUCO championship, as well as an appearance in the NJCAA Baseball World Series in Tyler, Texas.

"I had a great time as a Raptor baseball player," said Sawyer. "I enjoyed the trips to Florida and Texas. I loved being part of a

team, and Coach Rascher gave me a lot of leadership experience."

After the 2013 campaign, several baseball players, including Sawyer, took post-season awards. Two players earned All-American status for their athletic ability, while Sawyer received an NJCAA Award for Superior Academic

Achievement for receiving a 3.87 grade point average.

After graduating with honors from Montgomery College, Sawyer transferred to the University of Maryland's Smith School of Business to study marketing and supply chain management.

But it's not all business for Sawyer at Maryland. He's playing club-level baseball—and he's suiting up as one of the Turgeonites, a group of students who dress up in suits and ties to support men's basketball coach Mark Turgeon and his staff.

Felipe Collazo '13

Designer

Collazo received a \$500 Montgomery College Foundation stipend for winning the competition, and he worked in the College's Office of Communications over the summer of 2013. Seasoned designers took Collazo under their wings,

and he created the final iteration of the mascot. After receiving minor tweaks from Phoenix Design Works, a New Jersey-based mascot design firm, the Raptor took flight.

Collazo is putting his prodigious skills to use at the Maryland

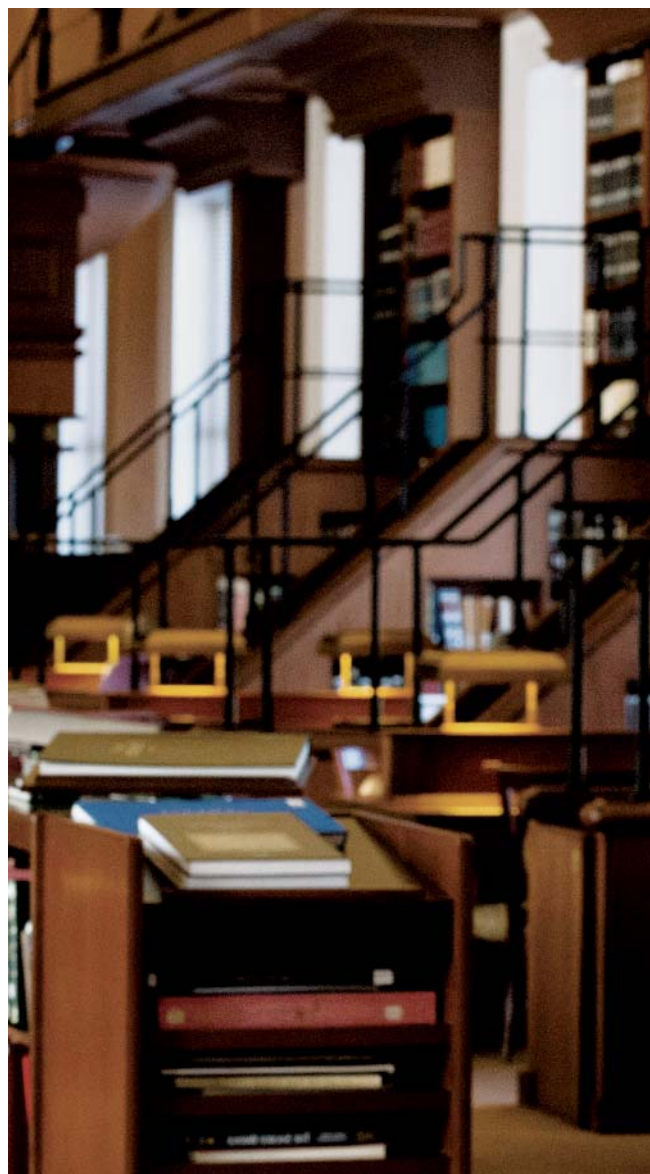
Institute College of Art. He received two foundation transfer scholarships totaling nearly \$3,500 to continue his studies—and take his design career to new heights.



Pete Vidal

For Chris Williams '14, the fifth time was the charm. After four false starts at college, something finally clicked. Perhaps most important, he crossed paths with Dr. Lucy Laufé, head of the collegewide Honors Program.

"She really guided my focus, showing me new opportunities," says Williams, a cybersecurity major. Laufé recommended that Williams take honors courses, which ultimately led him to the College's Paul Peck Humanities Institute (PPHI), and its unique internship programs for high-achieving students at the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.



Left: The Great Hall in the Library of Congress's Thomas Jefferson Building. Above: Chris Williams gained valuable hands-on cybersecurity experience during his internship at the Library of Congress.

MUSEUM-QUALITY *education*

By Tina Kramer | Photography by Pete Vidal



A New Chapter

“ My internship allowed me to practice many of the cybersecurity skills learned in the classroom that translate to real work experience. ”

—Chris Williams

Chris Williams worked with Professor Bette Petrides, PPHI internship coordinator, on an internship opportunity at the Library of Congress. His resume caught the eye of Sean Lang, chief information officer at the library, who brought Williams on board.

It's no surprise Lang was interested in the cybersecurity student. Williams is president of the College's Cyberwatch Club, which recently took first place in the community college division of the 2013 Digital Forensics Challenge, sponsored by the US Department of Defense.

Williams worked in the Office of Strategic Initiatives for the IT Security Group's security operations center, where he helped monitor the security of the library's network. He and his team focused on the viruses and malware that the library receives.

“I built a workstation that is used to examine malware in order to find details such as where it came from, who it was targeting, and what its primary function was,” says Williams. His internship research paper examined the implications of network security in protecting the intellectual property stored at the library. Williams presented his paper this past March at the Maryland Collegiate Honors Council, following in the footsteps of other former PPHI interns.

Reflecting on his experience, Williams says, “My internship allowed me to practice many of the cybersecurity skills learned in the classroom that translate to real work experience.

And, he adds, “I was asked to stay another six months.”

Continued on page 22

In a Class by Themselves

Montgomery College is the only two-year college in the nation that places interns at the three institutions. The internships provide an exceptional opportunity for students to experience the professional environment of world-class museum and library research activities.

Getting that opportunity is far from easy. The application process is rigorous and competitive. Students spend hours completing applications materials and essays, and are interviewed by MC honors faculty members. Only those with the best applications are sent on to the institutions for further consideration.

Once accepted by one of the institutions, interns enroll in a corresponding honors

course and are assigned faculty mentors, who meet with the students to discuss internship experiences and progress on a substantial research paper.

The stereotype that the intern makes the coffee and the copies couldn't be further from the truth. Students engage in professionally meaningful tasks, such as collecting, analyzing, and organizing activities; designing and preparing new exhibits; abstracting and archiving academic materials; planning new educational programs; and assisting and guiding museum visitors.

Since its inception in 1998, the program has placed more than 200 students at the three institutions.

Igniting a *Lifelong Passion*

...she's proud that her work, both in the lab and in wading through the literature, could potentially be important to geology overall.



Intern Jessica Lindsay with her mentor Dr. Michael Wise, in the mineralogy collection at the National Museum of Natural History.

Jessica Lindsay '13 has science in her DNA: Her father was an astrophysicist at Goddard Space Center in Greenbelt, and her grandfather was a pioneering space scientist who worked on early satellites that orbited the sun.

Fascinated with rocks, caves, and minerals, she has enjoyed exploring the limestone caves near her relatives' home in West Virginia. Caving in the lava tubes as a fifth grader at Craters of the Moon National Monument in Idaho further fueled her interest in volcanology.

Dr. Alan Cutler, her geology professor at Montgomery College, thought she'd be an ideal candidate for an internship at the National Museum of Natural History. There was a catch, though: Lindsay didn't have the required 3.4 grade point average to apply.

"I had to work hard to get my GPA up," says Lindsay. "The application was daunting, but I was quite determined and able to push past it."

With glowing recommendations from Cutler and Physics Professor Kris Lui, Lindsay snagged a prestigious internship

in the museum's Department of Mineralogy, working with Dr. Michael Wise, a well-known mineralogist. As part of her research, she perused the scientific literature, where she discovered a number of articles written by her mentor. She admits that she didn't realize at first "what a big deal my mentor is."

Lindsay is gaining valuable hands-on experience preparing samples for x-ray crystallography. She also works with such sophisticated tools as a scanning electron microscope and an electron microprobe.

She's "flushed with scientific discovery, working on things that haven't really been examined before," and she's proud that her work, both in the lab and in wading through the literature, could potentially be important to geology overall.

She explains that "A lot of work has been done concerning exsolution [a phenomenon during which molten rock solutions separate

into two or more distinct minerals when cooled] in other mineral groups, such as feldspars, pyroxenes, and amphiboles, because members of those groups are either themselves very valuable resources or tend to occur with more economically important minerals.

"The phosphates I'm working with—graptolite, triphylite, and sarcopside—are not particularly valuable to industry, so not much work has been done on them. However, some of the exsolution textures they exhibit resemble those known from other mineral groups.

"For whatever reason, very little has been done to compare the mechanisms of exsolution between mineral groups. I have already found a few cases of similar chemistry trends between the phosphates and other mineral groups. This means that the work done on these other groups might



I Found *My Calling*

By Zolani Ncube '11

“Some may think the Holocaust Museum is a cold, dreary place where people lament about the experiences of others. That couldn't be further from the truth.”



be applicable to the phosphates. If we could apply anything we've learned by studying exsolution within any particular mineral group to another group, it would go a long way toward helping geologists understand how and why certain minerals and rocks formed.”

Lindsay completed her coursework at Montgomery College in December 2013 and hopes to transfer to the University of Maryland this fall. Her work has so impressed her mentor that he invited her to stay on through the spring.

“Jessica has a great passion for mineralogy and she has been a tremendous asset to my research efforts during her internship,” says mentor Wise. “She has quickly become proficient in identifying unknown minerals using x-ray diffraction techniques and her dedicated work has helped increase the scientific value of some of our collections.”

I had a law degree from the University of Cape Town, but life as a traditional lawyer did not appeal to me. I decided to go back to MC and take classes while I figured out my next course of action. Little did I know that one of those classes—Literature of the Holocaust—would be the catalyst that would change my life.

Professor Ellen Mainen's class on the Holocaust was the highlight of my week. She introduced us to a world we hope will never be seen again.

Professor Mainen encouraged me to apply to an internship at the Holocaust Museum. I was surprised and honored to receive the position.

Some may think the Holocaust Museum is a cold, dreary place where people lament about the experiences of others.

That couldn't be further from the truth. It was a place where I connected with many special people and experienced such love, that I looked forward to going to work every morning. Having the opportunity to be the first point of contact when visitors arrived, seeing the gratitude in their eyes when I helped them maneuver around the building, or simply giving them a moment of my time to listen to their stories, or to wipe their tears, convinced me that I had found my calling.

Because I was constantly faced with the injustices and atrocities that were rampant during the Holocaust, I eventually remembered my original motive for pursuing law years ago: I was committed to being “a voice for the voiceless.” It was then that I decided to pursue a graduate degree in a field where I would be in a position to do just that.

I enrolled in a master's degree program at the Washington College of Law at American University. My specialization was fitting:

international human rights and gender. What better way to advocate for the rights of disadvantaged populations the world over?

I then made the decision to go back to Zimbabwe and pursue a career in law, where I could serve my people first. I passed the bar in October 2013, was registered as a lawyer in December, and am currently working at the Law Society.

I care for people, and there is no greater place than the Holocaust Museum to be reminded that when we stop caring and loving one another, evil prevails. I thank the Paul Peck Humanities Institute for helping that idea become a reality in my life.



Photo courtesy Zolani Ncube

Making a *Difference*

“The fact that I was able to work side by side with survivors and hear their stories and be part of a team that works to educate others about the Holocaust gave me a heightened sense of moral responsibility much greater than when I entered.”

—Shelton Fitch



An internship at a prestigious place, whether it's the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian, or the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, commands the attention of prospective employers and admissions representatives at competitive four-year schools. It demonstrates that the applicant had the intellect, drive, and maturity to win a much-coveted position.

Take, for example, Shelton Fitch '13, who interned at the Holocaust Museum in spring 2013. Today he's a scholarship student at George Washington University, majoring in international affairs.

Fitch worked at the museum's information desk, answering visitors' questions. He also conducted large-group orientations of up to 200 people, introducing them to museum exhibits, content, architecture, and safety.

“The fact that I was able to work side by side with survivors and hear their stories and be part of a team that works to educate others about the Holocaust gave me a heightened sense of moral responsibility much greater than when I entered,” says Fitch.

“I had no idea the museum was so dynamic in the sense that it means a lot of different things to different people. It serves as a place of remembrance and a place of education. Just experiencing this world-class institution with its mission of advancing and disseminating Holocaust knowledge made me feel good; it made me feel like I was doing something that benefits others.”

Fitch also served as a roving guide, walking through the exhibitions and answering questions, many of which concerned architecture. “The building

itself is a work of art in the way it is structured—the lighting, the materials,” he says. “The museum does a very good job of invoking emotions from visitors. You feel kind of lost and alone in the beginning, and as you go into the Hall of Remembrance, it's illuminated with natural light. It makes you feel different.”

Fitch's research paper focused on the heroic acts of a Jewish diplomat, who, along with a Salvadoran consul in Europe, helped save the lives of thousands of Jews during the Holocaust by giving them Salvadoran citizenship papers so they could flee to other countries.

Fitch hopes one day to work in the field of international affairs—perhaps at the State Department or the United Nations. “I want to do something where I feel like I'm making a difference. Because as I learned from the Holocaust Museum, everyone is part of an interwoven fabric. What you do matters.” ■



Left: Shelton Fitch and his supervisor at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum. Above: Fitch enjoyed interacting with people from all over the world.

Mining for Gold in the Nation's Attic



The 2014 Smithsonian Fellows will explore the Columbian Exchange—the impact of exploration and trade on American culture, economics, and biodiversity.

Montgomery College students aren't the only ones engaging in research at the Smithsonian Institution.

Since 1998, 158 faculty members—the Smithsonian Institution Fellows—have delved into independent research and study across an incredible range of disciplines.

Smithsonian Fellows gain access to unparalleled collections, world-class scholars, and state-of-the-art facilities to explore science, art, history, and culture.

The Smithsonian Faculty Fellowship Program is the signature program of the Paul Peck Humanities Institute. It offers fellows a dynamic, academically challenging cohort learning community in which they develop both professionally and personally. The seminar series at the Smithsonian introduces faculty to curators and staff, who share their expertise and offer insights into how artifacts are selected and exhibits shaped to communicate with the public.

Montgomery College students benefit too, from rich and textured learning opportunities created by fellows during their fellowship year. For both faculty and their students, this will be a personal voyage of discovery, 522 years after Columbus first set sail from the shores of the Old World.



M C

VAUGHAN

Illustration by Martha Vaughan

Deep Roots, Many Branches

BY MARTHA VAUGHAN
GRAPHIC DESIGN PROFESSOR



VAUGHAN FAMILY TREE FLOURISHES AT MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

I grew up in Rockville in the 1950s and 1960s, in a family of six children. We were all products of Montgomery County Public Schools, but we were all very different. My parents encouraged our individuality and our pursuit of interests as diverse as music, art, dance, literature, theater, and sports, while pursuing their own interests as well.

Planting the Seeds

In 1966, Montgomery College opened its Rockville Campus. My 57-year-old dad decided to jump on the college bandwagon and started taking classes. He was a civil engineer, and although he had taken night classes at the University of Pittsburgh in the 1930s, he had never earned a degree; most of his training was on the job. His long career included employment with Montgomery County, the City of Rockville, and the US Department of Justice.

He recalled, "If I had a degree in 1937 and practiced engineering the same, I'd have gone back anyway to take a retreading course. You almost have to, with the changes in science, especially physics and math. I feel I'm up to date now."

My dad earned his associate's degree in 1970, the same year I earned my BFA from Virginia Commonwealth University.

When he graduated, my dad credited some of his success at MC to the small class sizes, the individual attention professors give to their students, and the bonding that occurs with both classmates and professors.

"They tell me I was a class participant. I spoke out when I felt like it, and that's what I liked over there. They wanted you to participate," he remembered.

During those four years, he suffered a heart attack and ended up retiring in early 1970, but he persevered with his studies the whole time.

He was so proud of his achievement, and I think it meant a lot to him to be going to school with all of his children. My parents

were planning to move to Florida at the end of that summer, taking the three youngest with them. When my dad suddenly passed away in August, everyone's plans changed.

Branching Out

My brother Bill '72 quickly enrolled at MC in time to start classes in September 1970. He eventually received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from George Mason University and is now chief financial officer for Prince William County in Virginia. He is also a professional musician who performs regularly with his band (billvaughanmusic.com) in the Shenandoah Valley area. He met his wife, Laurel '72, at MC. They have been married for almost 40 years and have two grown children.

An art major at MC, Laurel had a long career as a graphic designer before retiring. She is now a landscape artist (facebook.com/laurelvaughanfineart) who exhibits regularly in the Shenandoah Valley area.

My sister Judy '69 transferred to MC from Virginia Commonwealth University after changing majors, and earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Maryland. She then earned an MSW and has been director of the Montgomery County Commission for Women for 30 years. She is a wife, a mother, and a grandmother. She is a part-time faculty member in the Sociology Department at MC and received an Outstanding Achievement Award from MC.

Later in the 1970s, my brother Ben '75, and sister Deborah '78, attended MC for their first two years before transferring

and earning graduate and undergraduate degrees. Ben is now a partner in the law firm of Armstrong, Donahoe, Ceppos, Vaughan, and Rhoads. He received an Outstanding Alumni Award from MC in 2012. Debby is a mother of three and teaches high school business math in Baltimore County.

In the 1990s my mother began taking music classes at MC as a senior citizen. It was a way for her to practice piano, an avocation she had loved all her life. We attended many of the duet recitals she performed in the years before and after she retired from her career as a social worker for Prince William County in Virginia.

Although the world and MC have been through many changes since then, I like to think that more than 40 years later, the things that made MC so appealing to a nontraditional learner like my dad are the same things that appeal to our diverse, ever-growing, and ever-changing student population today.

All six of us still live in either Maryland or Virginia. Some of us have children, some have grandchildren. Some of us are retired, some are actively pursuing multiple careers, and all are pursuing multiple interests.

Although our paths have diverged in many directions, MC made a difference, large or small, in each of our lives. ■

Since 1996, Vaughan has taught illustration, graphic design, and production in the Communication Arts and Technologies Department at the Rockville Campus. Her illustrations have appeared regularly in The Washington Post for over 30 years, as well as in regional and national magazines, newspapers, and books. Her digital images of wildlife and nature themes have been licensed for greeting cards, posters, and apparel to the National Wildlife Federation, the World Wildlife Fund, and United States Humane Society. View her artwork at marthavaughan.com.

DAVID ADI

'06



Shai H.

Adi co-founded a mobile gaming/applications startup company, Gamba Gamez, in Israel last year. Adi's firm successfully launched a movie trivia game, Reely, on the iTunes store and Facebook (Reely), and followed with a digital media suite, produced for a major broadcast that aired in Israel and internationally this spring. The firm's mission is to provide digital media solutions as a ready-to-go platform for content partners. A graduate of the Macklin Business Institute, Adi later earned a degree in finance from the Robert H. Smith School of Business at University of Maryland. He returned home to Israel and worked in corporate finance at Jerusalem Venture Partners, a global venture capital firm, before venturing out on his own.



What is the biggest challenge your new business venture faces?

Well, you can never have enough funding. Aside from allocation of resources, I would say it's having the ability to gather and focus the collective energy of the organization toward a vision in what is clearly a new and uncharted market and territory. Also, there is a lot of ambiguity in the unstructured nature of the start-up work environment. As an entrepreneur, I need to constantly reinvent my skills and product offerings to address the changing needs of the market. I have to be a few steps ahead of the game and foresee what's coming next.

What is the significance of Gamba Gamez, the company's name?

We just thought it would be a fun name. The word 'gamba' is a colloquial

name for the red pepper in Hebrew, so it's a very light, casual, and fun name for a corporation—which suits the gaming industry.

Where do you see yourself in five or 10 years?

If there's one thing I have learned from the past five and 10 years, it is that I absolutely do not have an answer to that question, and that makes things more interesting. I need to be focused and patient to be able to identify the best opportunities as they come along.

Did you have any mentors or role models?

I am grateful to have started my career working with a manager dedicated to the success and personal development of my team. I have gained the most thorough hands-on experience, developed personally and professionally by going off the deep end, and being trusted—and assisted—in doing so.

What do you like about living and working in Israel?

The hi-tech environment here is fast paced, challenging, and fosters a

unique environment for out-of-the-box thinking, and cultivating creativity and innovation. Anyone, regardless of age, seniority, or title can greatly contribute to an organization's success. When I started working in my first private sector position, I quickly found myself at the center of activity. Opportunities to learn, grow, and gain experience in new fields is practically unlimited. Living in Israel is like getting a bit of everything packed and concentrated into a small geographical area. There is a wide range of opinions and lifestyles, cultural diversity, and open-mindedness; when combined with the abundance of talent and high capacity to take risk... the culture fuels great ideas.

Macklin alumni hold annual reunions and stay connected via chapter activities. They are active on Facebook and keep in touch with their former professors. This year marks the program's fifteenth anniversary. More on the Macklin Business Institute can be found at macklin.org.

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

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

Photo 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.

1960s



Robert Marshall '65 is serving his 11th term in the Virginia House of Delegates. He represents the 13th District in the General Assembly.

1970s

George Ladner '74 has been with the Central Intelligence Agency for 37 years. (And we're allowed to say so.)



Michael Krawic '75 has appeared in *Legally Blonde 2*, *The X Files*, *Ghosts of Mars*, *Fire Down Below*, and many other film and television roles. His latest project

is a role in the upcoming feature film, *Senior Project*, starring Margaret Cho.

Cartoonist Publishes Comic Strip Collection

Richard Thompson '78 published a collection of his *Washington Post* strip, *Cul de Sac*, in a two-volume set: *The Complete Cul de Sac*. He also exhibited his artwork at the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum in March, where it was shown with Bill Watterson's *Calvin and Hobbes*. He is compiling a retrospective of his work, including some of the strips he drew for the Rockville Campus newspaper, *The Spur* (to be released later this year). Thompson currently resides in Arlington, Va.



Michelle Love '77 served in the Army during the Vietnam War, during which she was exposed to dangerous chemicals and left with a visual disability. After her military service, she came to MC and earned an AA. She wrote to express her gratitude and appreciation to MC for accommodating her with textbooks put on audiotape and the extended time for exams. She noted that without these

accommodations, she would have been unable to graduate.

Chuck Redd '78 has been named guest of honor at the October 2014 Roswell Jazz Festival in New Mexico.

1980s

Susan (Jarrett) Greene '86 was married last summer.



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

1990s

Shawna O'Hagan Morrow '92 is a senior manager for customer accounts at USEC Inc., in Bethesda, Md.

Jerome ("JYD") Williams '94 welcomed MC's new Raptors mascot via a video message at its debut last fall. He has prior Raptors experience; his nine-year NBA career included several teams: the Detroit Pistons, the New York Knicks, the Chicago Bulls—and the Toronto Raptors.



Leslie Reeves

Paul James '99 has appeared on the ABC Family show *Greek*. His filmography also includes *CSI*, *Cold Case*, *Spinning into Butter*, and many more.

2000s

Roberto Lara '01 is senior product group manager with MicroStrategy Advanced Product Support. He leads a team of product support managers in the US, UK, and China.

Emil Reynolds '01 welcomed his fourth child in March. He is a project manager for experimentation at the Army Training and Doctrine Command, leading a new conceptual prototyping initiative.

Ben Tedesco '02 leads a team of cybersecurity analysts at Booz Allen Hamilton.

Abby Furnish '05 earned her master's in environmental management from Duke University last spring. She is working through the Peace Corps in the Peruvian Protected Areas Agency, Lima, Peru, on marine protected area management.

Malcolm Royer '06 is currently stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, as an assistant operations officer for the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, having returned safely from deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. He was recently promoted to captain and will be moving to Georgia for Maneuver Captains Career Course.

Rachel Patrick '07 earned her master of science—clinical nurse leader degree from the University of Maryland Baltimore. She works in the pediatric intensive care unit of Sinai Hospital.



Sanjay Suchak

Carolina Peña '07, membership and communications coordinator at the Hispanic Dental Association, married **Ezequiel Galeno '08**, a software developer at iMagicLab, last fall.

Aaron Kaufman '08 is an adult systems advocate with ARC Maryland.

George Zamora '08, a past member of the Alumni Association's board of governors, became a candidate for Maryland Delegate in District 17.

Kudi Usman '08 is a management and program analyst for the Internal Revenue Service.

Tim Ossi '09 earned his BA in philosophy from the University of Maryland.

Javier Peña '09, a staffer at the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, married Laura Bruening last year.

2010s

Adeile Solis '10 is a kindergarten teacher at Beall Elementary School in Rockville.

Selene Tituana '10 earned a BS in public health science from the University of Maryland, and is a life cycle health educator in the health promotions department at Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care.

Claire Kalala '10 earned a BA (valedictorian) in multidisciplinary fine arts from the University of the Arts, Philadelphia.

Karina Velasco '10 is an outreach specialist at the Latin America Youth Center in Hyattsville, Md.

Sonia Matos '12 is an import analyst at Samuel Shapiro & Co., Baltimore.

Jessica Ricker '12 is a financial reporting officer at Constellation Federal Credit Union in Reston, Va.

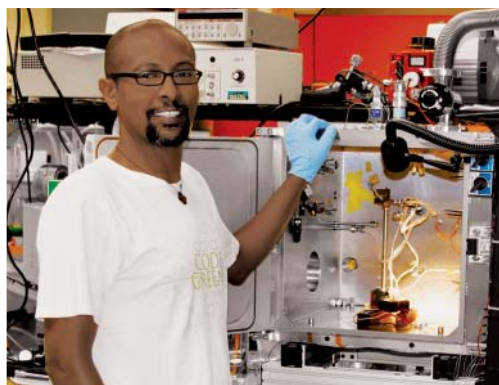
Engineering Alumni Build Their Future

Engineering Professor Emeritus Don Day reports that five former students are currently PhD candidates at various universities:

Mandana Ahmadi '06, a physics major, is now finishing her PhD at University College London in Computational Neuro-

sciences. **Arian Vistamehr '04** is finishing her PhD at the University of Texas Austin in mechanical engineering. **Solomon Adera '07** is working on his PhD dissertation at MIT in mechanical engineering. **Rose Faghih '06** is writing her dissertation at MIT in electrical engineering, while her brother, **Ali Faghih '08**, a year behind her, is in the PhD EE program at MIT.

Engineering alumni can keep up with their former faculty and classmates via Chapter events. Log on to Facebook and keyword search Montgomery College Engineering Alumni.



Courtesy Michael Menalick

Solomon Adera '07

In Memoriam

Joan Mullan

December 23, 2013

She taught American and world literature at the Rockville Campus for more than 20 years before her retirement in 1993.

Norma Eskenazi '89

October 11, 2013

She was a member of the Spectrum Gallery in Washington, DC.

Wayne Green, Bliss '43

September 13, 2013

An interest in amateur radio led Green to the Navy's wartime radio technician program. He published some of the first computer hobbyist magazines.

Rita Krakower Margolis '83

September 11, 2013

Richard VonEltz Kudlich '52

September 15, 2012

Patricia S. Soper '69

August 22, 2012

Richard Barnard '93

March 3, 2011



Don Rejonis

Thomas L. (Tom) Bichy

March 1, 2014

Bichy served as the athletic director and men's soccer coach for more than 37 years before his retirement in 2004. He also served numerous positions within Region XX, MD JUCO, and the NJCAA Men's Soccer Coaches Association. He was inducted into the College's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2008.



Don Rejonis

Dr. Floyd F. Cumberbatch

January 12, 2014

He joined the College as instructional dean (business, management, information science, and physical education) in 1988 and became Rockville Campus Provost in 1996. He later served as the vice president for academic and student services until his retirement in 2000. He was a principal in the law firm of Shulman, Rogers, Gandal, Pordy & Ecker, P.A.

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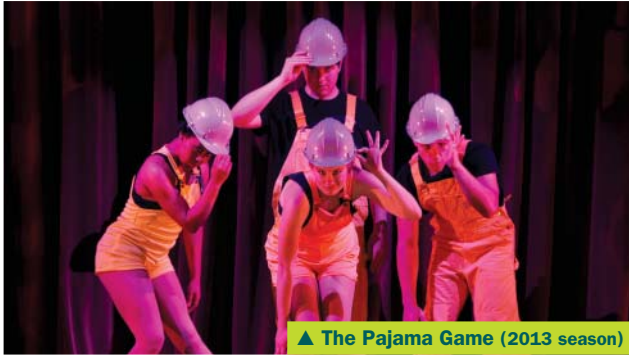
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Steve Wolf

Summer Dinner Theatre

Aspiring performers, theatre technicians, and artists from the College and the community bring classic Broadway musicals to Rockville every summer. Students serve as wait staff at each performance, while theatregoers enjoy a sumptuous buffet dinner before the show.

Seussical

Weekends, June 20–June 29

The Cat in the Hat, Horton the Elephant, Gertrude McFuzz, Mayzie, the Whos of Whoville, and other favorite characters from the whimsical imagination of Dr. Seuss come together in a musical that will appeal to all ages.

Les Misérables

Weekends, July 11–27

Discover a nation in the grip of revolution, where convict

Jean Valjean is on the run. Hunted by the policeman Javert, he must leave his past behind and keep his vow to raise the orphaned Cosette. But with revolution in the air and Javert closing in, Jean Valjean must sacrifice everything to protect the people he loves.

**Theatre Arts Building,
Rockville Campus
\$47.50 adults; \$36.50
children (12 and under)
240-567-7676.**

Alumni enjoy a 10-percent discount on opening night performances on June 20 and July 11. Information and tickets: montgomerycollege.edu/sdt.

Chautauqua 2014

Creative Women: Breaking the Mold

Join three women who lived by their own rules: artist Georgia O'Keeffe; poet Emily Dickinson; and surrealist painter Frida Kahlo, for an evening of edutainment. In association with the Maryland Humanities Council, Chautauqua provides a stage for scholar/actors to portray historical legends in character and in costume, and then answer questions from the audience.

Wednesday, July 9

An Evening with Georgia O'Keeffe

Thursday, July 10

*An Evening with
Emily Dickinson*

Friday, July 11

*An Evening with
Frida Kahlo*

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montgomerycollege.edu/chautauqua



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All Montgomery College Events

montgomerycollege.edu

Cultural Arts Center (CAC)

montgomerycollege.edu/cac

Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center (PAC)

montgomerycollege.edu/pac

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Catherine F. Scott, Professor Emerita, Montgomery College

BROAD STROKES FOR ASPIRING ARTISTS

Then

In 1957, Edgar and Shirley Lipman opened an art supply store, offering classes to customers and the community. By 1965, in response to the demand for the popular courses, the owners expanded the school, forming the Maryland School of Art and Design. In 1971, the Maryland College of Art and Design was incorporated. For more than 30 years, the school encouraged the development of artists at its location on Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring.



Now

Nearly 10 years ago, on September 1, 2004, the Maryland College of Art and Design officially became the School of Art and Design (SA+D) at Montgomery College.

The SA+D, now located in The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Arts Center at Takoma Park/Silver Spring, is a rigorous, portfolio-intensive art school experience for college students majoring in studio art or graphic design. In addition, the SA+D offers dynamic student-focused noncredit classes for aspiring and professional artists at all ages and skill levels.





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